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LD1702143889 [Editorial Report]

Afghanistan

Military Situation—"Criminal extremists" fired six surface-to-surface missiles at Kabul 16 February, killing six people and wounding three others, Kabul radio announced. Officials cited by AFP said that one of the missiles hit children at play while another struck a minibus near the airport.

Resistance sources in Islamabad subsequently stated that mujahidin have captured Paghman, a summer resort 10 miles north of the capital, AFP noted.

Wakil Remarks—At a news conference broadcast by Kabul radio, Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil stressed that the "extremists" will never succeed through missiles and economic blockades. He disclosed that the PDPA has mobilized around 10,000 of its members and also claimed that up to 2,000 Pakistani militia have entered Afghanistan in the Jalalabad area to assist the opposition.

On the political situation, he confirmed that the Kabul government strongly rejects the "imposed and dictated council" set up by the opposition, but emphasized the PDPA's commitment to a "multistructural economic order and political pluralism." The PDPA is "not a communist party" and is "not building socialism," he affirmed.

Mujahidin Politics—Afghan opposition leaders held further sessions of the shura (consultative council) in Rawalpindi 16 February, Islamabad radio reported, noting that the discussions were attended by Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, chairman of the seven-party alliance. However, Mojaddedi and Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, leader of another "moderate" faction, expressed their opposition to the proposal to appoint Ahmed Shah as prime minister of a provisional government, AFP noted.

Iran

Rushdie Affair—Iran is now offering "about $6 million" to anyone who carries out Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's order to execute British author Salman Rushdie, IRNA reported 17 February. However, President 'Ali Khamene'i told Friday worshippers that Rushdie may be pardoned if he makes a clear apology, the agency noted.

Khamene'i called on the British Government to explain why it has allowed a British citizen to make such a "blunder," but he stressed that Iranian protesters must not go near the British and other foreign embassies in Tehran.

The Iranian charge d'affaires in London had earlier dismissed Britain's protest to Iran over the execution order, asserting that Khomeyni's "fatwah" was "much more important than relations between two countries," IRNA noted. The official was responding to Britain's description of the execution order as "unacceptable" and its announcement of a freeze in the planned buildup of embassy staff in Tehran.

Musavi in Turkey—During a 3-day visit to Turkey, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi told Iranians residing in that country that Khomeyni is expected to announce a general amnesty to Iranian citizens abroad to encourage them to return home, IRNA reported. Musavi held talks with the Turkish president and prime minister during his visit to Ankara, the agency noted.

Pakistan

Ambassadors of all Islamic countries and of the United States and Britain were summoned to the Foreign Office 16 February to devise "joint action" against further publication of the "blasphemous" book "The Satanic Verses," Islamabad radio reported. The U.S. and British envoys were asked to persuade their governments to get the book withdrawn from sale in their countries.

Lebanon

Representatives of the Lebanese Army and Lebanese Forces (LF) reached an agreement for withdrawing all Army and LF military personnel from the newly formed combat lines in the eastern area and returning them to barracks, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon subsequently noted that the two sides began withdrawing their forces amid a calm atmosphere after 3 days of fighting in which 57 people were killed and 189 injured.

An Army Command statement carried by Beirut radio earlier on 16 February accused Radio Free Lebanon of spreading "biased rumors" about the Army. The Army Command also announced that crossing points between East and West Beirut are henceforth open to all citizens as there is no longer any "illegitimate" military presence at the checkpoints levying fees and protection money. According to the radio, General Michel 'Awn criticized the LF for imposing taxes like "Mafia gangs" and accused the LF of planning to seize power in East Beirut.

Meanwhile, Syrian forces completed their deployment in the southern suburb of Beirut 16 February in accordance with the Amal-Hizballah agreement, Beirut radio noted.

In northern Lebanon, an American woman married to a Lebanese was shot dead by gunmen in the 'Akkar area, north of Tripoli, Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Israel

One Palestinian was killed and seven others were wounded in clashes with Israeli soldiers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Jerusalem radio reported.

THE JERUSALEM POST noted that a controversy over recent talks between Israeli and Palestinian personalities has exposed "embarrassing rifts" between Labor and the Likud, and within Labor itself. The meetings between Israeli politicians and a group of PLO supporters were condemned by the Prime Minister's office as "useless and unauthorized" and an encouragement for "PLO terrorism."

Faysal al-Husayni and other Palestinians who attended the meetings are "linked to the PLO" and are part of the PLO's attempt to create a "false picture of a supposedly respectable PLO," a spokesman for the prime minister said.

On the other hand, Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres expressed support for the talks, which were attended by Deputy Finance Minister Yosi Beilin and several other Labor politicians.

Ziyad Abu Zayyad, a Palestinian journalist who attended the meetings, told Jerusalem radio's Arabic service that the purpose of such talks is to convince Israeli opinion of the seriousness of the Palestinian peace initiative.

However, the PFLP issued a statement in Beirut warning of the "negative repercussions" of such meetings, according to Radio Monte Carlo. The clandestine Al-Quds radio accused the Palestinian participants of breaking away from the Palestinian "consensus" by meeting with "Zionist terrorists."

Arab Cooperation Council

INA carried the "full text" of the foundation agreement of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), which includes in its goals the establishment of economic integration and an Arab common market. The ACC will consist of a Supreme Council of heads of state, a Ministerial Council of heads of government, and a General Secretariat based in Amman. The document stipulates that other Arab countries wishing to join the ACC must have their applications approved in the Supreme Council by all member states.

Maghreb Summit

In a speech at the Marrakech summit broadcast by Rabat television, Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi expressed hope that the "unified Arab Maghreb" will be free of repression and exploitation and will serve as a model for the establishment of comprehensive Arab unity "from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf." The Maghreb countries must harness their economic capabilities to create progress and prosperity, he said, and they must also establish a formula for collective security and defense against the ambitions of foreign powers.

Al-Qadhdhafi concluded by inviting the four other Maghreb leaders to attend another summit in Libya on 1 September.

Algiers radio reported that the Maghreb leaders have decided to establish a "federation" headed by a presidential council that will meet every 6 months in ordinary session and hold emergency sessions if necessary.

Inter-Arab

Reportage on Maghreban Summit in Marrakech

Libya's Al-Qadhdhafi Arrives

LD1502150189 Rabat MAP in English 1317 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Marrakech, Feb. 15 (MAP)—Leader of the Libyan revolution Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi arrived this Wednesday in Marrakech to participate in the second Maghreban summit due to be held in Marrakech.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi was greeted upon arrival by King Hassan II who was flanked by Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed and Prince Moulay Rachid.

Tunisian President Arrives

LD1502150289 Rabat MAP in English 1313 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Marrakech, Feb. 15 (MAP)—Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali arrived this Wednesday in Marrakech to attend the second Maghreban summit to be held in Marrakech.

President Ben Ali was greeted upon arrival at the Marrakech Menara Airport by King Hassan II who was flanked by Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed and Prince Moulay Rachid.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Ben Ali

LD1602091189 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Marrakesh, 16 Feb, (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution received President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of sister Republic of Tunisia in Marrakech yesterday evening. The meeting was attended by Major al- Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi and Habib Ammar, minister of state advisor to the president of Tunisia. It was also attended by the Libyan representative in Tunis and the resident secretary in Rabat, and by the Tunisian ambassador in Rabat.

Bendjedid, Ben Ali Hold Talks

LD1602130389 Algiers APS in English 1140 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Marrakech, 16/2/89 (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid held talks on Wednesday here with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia. The two men dealt with the process of edification of greater Maghreb.

Leaders Hold 'Closed Meeting'

LD1602100189 Tripoli JANA in English 0817 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Marrakech, Al-Nawuar [February] 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leaders of the Arab Maghreb countries held a closed meeting in Marrakech which lasted for around twenty minutes.

Hassan Gives Opening Speech

LD1602155489 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 1321 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Opening speech by Morocco's King Hassan II at Maghreb summit being held in Marrakech on 16 February—live]

[Text] Thanks be to God. Prayers and peace be upon our mawlana the messenger of God and upon his family and companions. My dear and brotherly heads of the greater Arab Maghreb countries; Your Excellencies, gentlemen;

It is an historic time that we are living in today; may God transform it to a white and glorious landmark on our path to the future, lighting the road for us and guiding the rising and upcoming generations.

We are realizing today a dream which was entertained by our fathers, uncles, and brothers, and those who came before us. They entertained this dream because they were always feeling that despite the barriers, the distances, and colonalism, they found themselves yearning for our bright and glorious days, those days when our greater Arab Maghreb would be a wing for Arabism and Islam, and what a wing!

Almighty God has wanted this for us and for our citizens, and He bestowed upon us this grace. However, he simultaneously laid responsibility upon us, a responsibility which can not be conceptualized by anybody regardless of his faith, imagination, or patriotism. It is a responsibility that it linked first to our duties toward our peoples. Second it is a responsibility which is linked to our duty toward our Arab brothers, to our brothers in the African continent, to the Islamic world and finally to the entire world.

We have no excuse, we have no excuse because our past is a witness; Our civilizational past, our cultural past, the past of extraordinary men, the devoted strugglers, those who continually fought to spread God's word, and to spread justice, peace, and tranquility in the regions of the world they had reached. They then built an edifice which we have to preserve. They built for us a reputation to the sanctity of whcih we have to remain faithful. They left us a patrimony which we have to unceasingly look after, and to teach to our sons and grandsons, so that when we come to stand before God we will find that we have carried out our duty.

The Prophet, God's prayers and peace be upon him, said: If trust is lost, then the time has come. The time here does not mean doomsday but a deterioration of the situation and a departure from the phase of prosperity and happiness to one of secessions and extinction.

We consequently have to fulfill the trust so that we can revel in the shadow of sacred religion and under the slogan of our great Arab Maghreb. Once again my brothers, many thanks for your positive response to my invitation. My country and my people are proud of this meeting which will remain highlighted in our Moroccan and Maghreban history in letters of gold and pride.

The best way to conclude will be a verse from God's almighty book which says: Hadst thou expended all that is in the earth, thou couldst not have brought their hearts together, but God brought their hearts together. Verily, God has sayth the truth, and God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Summit

LD1602171189 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 1328 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Speech by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at the founding conference of the Arab Maghreb in Marrakech—live]

[Text] In the name of God. First, I want to thank you brothers for giving me this honor of speaking on your behalf so that we do not waste a lot of time now. To begin with, I also want to express our deep emotion over the great hospitality and fraternal spirit which met us in our city Marrakech, which is one of our Arab and Islamic capitals and one of the castles which steadfastly stood against the crusaders and the Europeans, with their recurrent ambitions in our Arab Islamic homeland. We were very much moved by the reception accorded us by our families in the city of Marrrakech today.

They spontaneously came out—youth, the elderly, men, women, and children—in order to express that we are one family, one people, the sons of one motherland. Their reception of us today crowned the warmth, hospitality, and fraternal spirit with which our brother his majesty the king embraced us, together with his children and assistants, since we arrived in Marrakech. I hail the valuable address given by his majesty in opening this founding conference for unified Arab Maghreb.

I repeat what was pointed out by his majesty the king regarding our shared history and time-honored glory and the responsibility which we should bear toward this great heritage. We are filled with happiness because we are on the threshold of a new phase, allowing us to say that our motherland has begun to bid farewell to the regionalism, isolation, division, and fragmentation that has resulted in humiliation, weakness, backwardness, the escalation of foreign challenges, and the multiplication of imperialist and Zionist ambitions over our motherland. These reached the point where they aspired to have the power of veto over the future of the Arab motherland.

Just as we are conferring in the western part of the great Arab homeland in order to set up a unitary edifice, so too are our brothers conferring in the eastern part of the great Arab homeland. I would like to say here that I have sent my colleague Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis to Somalia, Djibouti, North and South Yemen, and Muscat and Oman in order to propose to them the setting up of a Swahili union which would protect the southern part of the Arab homeland littoral to the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. We hope that it is possible now for us to say good-bye to regionalism, schism and division, and to the period of negligibleness, weakness, and backwardness.

We hope that it is a good omen for a new dawn, the dawn of Arab unity, the dawn of strength and the dawn of building up Arab strength as well as the beginning for imposing this nation's respect on the world. Our nation should take its worthy place under the sun as it is a great nation with a glorious history and reputation in the world, as it was the one during the dark ages and Middle Ages which pioneered the science and knowledge for the foundation of today's modern rennaissance. The pioneers of the latter were the Arabs and the Muslims. Our meeting today proves that we have a will which has enabled us to overcome the elements of doubt, lack of confidence, regionalist feelings, as well as the colonialist trappings dating from the previous periods which were used to divide us by using the motto "divide and rule". In order to rule, they had to divide us.

With our strong Arab will which believes in the edification of the future which we can make with our will, we have been able to defeat this negative legacy, and to meet today in our town of Marrakech and in the home of a dear brother among us to tidy up the interior of our Arab home. When we stand on solid ground, we will be able to extend our strong hand to our neighbors, our friends, and the world to contribute to a better future for mankind.

I hope that this work, being freely undertaken, will be the foundation stone for a new era, and for the edification of a unified Arab Maghreb which will be for the benefit of the toilers, the poor, the deprived, those who suffered during times of injustice, colonization, and those whose wealth has been usurped by the colonizer, whose blood has been sucked, whose sweat has been stolen, and who were given as spoils to the forces of greed and exploitation. These oppressed forces, this overwhelming majority of the sons of our Arab Maghreban people, will be able to breathe more freely in the shadow of the new unified Arab Maghreb, to share in the wealth of the new unified Arab Maghreb. The condition of the poor has to improve, as well as that of the victms of injustice, the sons of the martyrs whose fathers, grandfathers, and greatgrandfathers sacrificed themselves for this dear

homeland and who are still living in need because wealth is not shared equitably because of what we have inherited from the period of injustice, colonialism, and class.

I hope that human rights will be stressed in our unified Arab Maghreb and that we will be pioneering in emphasizing human rights as understood by our Arab Islamic oriental civilization. Human rights are not those shallow and trivial ones about which the West talks.

The sacred human right is in man's sweat and in his self-determination. Every human being should determine his own future and should have no governance on his behalf. Every human being should enjoy the fruits of his effort and sweat; he should not be exploited by anyone.

These are the basic rights. After those come complementary things. The right to self-determination, to self-rule, the right to enjoy the fruits of one's effort—these are the basic rights which we should teach the world. No one outside our Arab Maghreb, our Arab homeland, and our Islamic motherland should teach us how to consolidate democracy or how to consolidate these rights. All manifestations of injustice, repression, and class in our Arab Maghreb should be done away with. All elements of oppression and tyranny, including the death penalty, life and long-term imprisonment, the prohibition of freedom of speech currently present in our laws, which are inherited from colonialism, should be removed. There should be no prisoners of conscience, prisoners of opinion, or a death penalty in our Arab Maghreb, unless we ourselves believe so due to our Islamic Shari'ah and heritage without trying to please the West or East.

I want a Maghreb without repression and without exploitation that we can be proud of in front of the world and make into a model for the remainder of our Arab motherland around which a prospective greater unity—from the ocean to the gulf—can be built. All restrictions should be broken and all barriers between the sons of the one people and between the one homeland—barriers that were inherited from colonialism—should be removed. The sons of the Maghreb should be able to move from Libya to Mauritania without being stopped by anybody in their own home; this is their homeland, their soil. They should be able to travel with their goods, their capital, their livestock, and their belongings and be able to reside anywhere in this unified Maghreb with total freedom. This is their right. The Maghreb should be built for the sake of these masses who should enjoy the freedom of travel, residence, and ownership. The Moroccan should be considered Libyan the moment he enters Libya and vice versa.

This Maghreb should also constitute a consolidation of freedom at home and abroad and should contribute toward the development of world civilization and the prosperity of the geographical area in which we are located and which constitutes the bridge linking Europe with Africa, the Orient with the West, the Mediterranean with Africa, the European states with the Arab motherland and Africa. We should contribute toward developing international trade with total freedom, the investment and movement of capital abroad; we should accept investment from abroad and invest abroad.

This union should distance itself from racism. We should open the door to our African brothers—who are our neighbors—for them to join this union which should be a union for integration and not a racial one. Furthermore, one must insist that it should be a step toward comprehensive Arab unity from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf [Persian Gulf]. It should not be a union, as colonialism would like and has been suggesting, of merely regional dimension to tear up the unity of the Arab nation. Our will should, however, defeat the will of colonialism and make these regional unions move toward comprehensive Arab unity.

We should take into consideration the situation of some of our brothers who, if one may say so, have been isolated from joining regional unions like Sudan, which has yet to join the new Arab Cooperation Council just set up in Baghdad. Syria has also not been included in this new grouping. There are some other countries as well, which I have already mentioned—and to which an envoy has been sent—countries in the southern part of our Arab homeland and in the eastern part of Africa. We should not forget those brothers and should make them understand that we are going to shoulder our responsibilities as leaders of five fraternal countries conferring here in Marrakech today. We should make clear to them that we will not ignore our pan-Arab duty toward them; we should extend our arms to them, consult with them, and hear their opinion in this respect.

Two things should concern us in our unified Arab Maghreb: First, we must gather our Maghrebian economic capabilities to create progress and prosperity for our citizens. Second, we must find a formula for collective security and defense for our Arab Maghreb to defend it from foreign powers' ambitions. Such a union should be a consolidation for the revolution of the Palestinian people and a moral support for our brothers in the prisons of the Israeli enemy as well as for the stone-thrower children, their mothers and their fathers who daily become human sacrifices for the sake of a free Palestine and for the sake of resisting the Zionist colonialism of settlement which can only be considered a colonialist phenomenon resulting from World War II. Our Palestinian people are the only people to gain independence following the reorganization of the international situation after World War II.

The Zionist existence is a colonialist phenomenon resulting from the pre-World War II colonialist era—we should only construe it in this way. We should, therefore, liberate our sons and their sons and (?instigate) them to continue the struggle for the liberation of Palestine from the river to the sea as we should not feel at peace over the future of our sons and future generations if there is an

aggressive and racist camp out there arming itself with nuclear missiles and weapons as well as chemical and bacteriological weapons. It is also determined to lead an aggressive existence and will only survive if it can annihilate Arabs as our struggle is a struggle for existence and not one over borders.

Only one nation will survive: Our Arab nation or a Zionist and racist nation which would impose itself upon our region. Our new Arab Maghreb should be a consolidation for the struggle of the Palestinian people for the liberation of Palestine from the river to the sea.

Brothers, we should be patient when facing all problems and should have a strong will to face the challenges and plots which might be hatched against us. We should have confidence in each other. Our meeting here is proof of such a path. We are called upon to go to a summit to be held in your country, the great Jamahiriyah, on 1 September to continue the march. Our struggle should continue. We will triumph, God willing, through a spirit of brotherhood and self-confidence as well as confidence in tomorrow and respect for the great past which is the source for what we are. I thank you once more for allowing me and giving me the honor to talk in your name. I wish you success. Thank you. [applause]

SDAR President Sends Message

LD1602164389 Algiers APS in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Bir Lehlu, the Liberated Territories, 16 Feb (APS)—SDAR President Mohamed Abdelaziz sent a message today—Thursday—to the presidents of the Maghreb countries attending the second Maghreb summit in Marrakech. He said: The building of the Great Arab Maghreb goes beyond the fundamental aspirations of our peoples. It constitutes a request imposed by an urgent necessity in order to face up to the challenges of the moment, and to secure the future.

The Saharan president further said in his message, which was published by the Saharan Information Ministry, that the Saharan people, who are fighting to recover their independence and freedom, and who are confident that their ligitimate aspirations will inevitably be fulfilled, are aware that the conflict between the SDAR and the Kingdom of Morocco will remain an obstacle to building the Arab Maghreb on firm and realistic foundations.

The message continued: At the end of the last month we made a unilateral decision stipulating a military truce during the month of February as our contribution to creating the appropriate conditions for the success of the Maghreb summit, and to consequently allow it to achieve positive results for the benefit of all the region's peoples. This initiative followed the Marrakech meeting on 4 and 5 January between His Majesty King Hassan II, the Moroccan monarch, and a high-ranking Saharan delegation.

The Saharan president concluded his message saying: We hope in all frankness and sincerity that the Mahgreb summit will have happy results which will endow our initiative concerning the military truce with another dimension, and will have laudable effects on regional peace and stability and open the way to building the Great Arab Maghreb, that Maghreb in which all the peoples of the region, including the Saharan people, will find their legitimate and normal position.

Foreign Ministers Meet

LD1602224289 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1815 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Maghreb countries held a 2-hour working session in Marrakech this morning. The ministers discussed the documents to be presented to the Maghreb leaders at the closing session. The foreign ministers will resume their meeting later tonight.

'Sources' on Summit Documents

LD1602231889 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 Feb 89

[excerpt] According to reliable sources, three documents will emanate from the second Maghreb summit, which is due to conclude its proceedings in Marrakech tomorrow. These documents include the official proclamation of the creation of the federation, which will bear the title of Federation of the Maghreb; the constituent treaty, which will comprise the drafting of the principles and objectives of the federation and its governing bodies; and finally the heads of states' decision to ratify the results of the meetings of the Greater Maghreban Committee and the subcommittees arising from the Zeralda Summit.

With regard to the constituent treaty, the summit has decided to create a number of political and executive bodies. These bodies include a presidential council for the federation, comprising the heads of states. This council will be chaired by every head of state in turn for 1 year. It will meet every 6 months in an ordinary session, but will hold emergency sessions if required. The treaty also stipulates the creation of a council of foreign affairs ministers whose task will be to prepare the meetings of the Presidential Council. The heads of the five countries' governments can hold meetings between the Ministerial Council [as heard] sessions.

The constituent treaty of the federation stipulates the creation of a follow-up committee comprising one member from each government. This committee will follow up the implementation of Presidential Council decisions.

The treaty also includes the creation of General Secretariat for the Presidential Council, attached to the latter's chairman, which will comprise one representative from each state. The mission of this General Secretariat is purely administrative.

The document also stipulates the creation of a constituent assembly comprising one representative from each national parliament of the federation's member states. In addition, the treaty includes the creation of a judicial body, comprising two judges from each country, whose task is to arbitrate disputes which might appear in the relations between the various bodies of the member states. Each country can call for a meeting of the Judicial Council, whose powers will be fixed for 6 years.

The same sources indicated that the federation would remain open to every Arab and African country wishing to join it.

Furthermore, it has been learned that the Maghreb foreign affairs ministers held a closed working session this morning to finalize the texts to be put foward to the heads of states for ratification. [passage omitted]

'Full Text' of Arab Council Cooperation Agreement
JN1602142489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Feb (INA)—The foundation agreement of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] [Majlis al-Ta'awun al-'Arabi], which was signed by the 4 Arab leaders in Baghdad today consists of 17 articles. Following is the full text of the agreement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Whereas the Arab nation, with its ancient and rich cultural heritage and its big role in building the edifice of human civilization, cherishes a strong and legitimate aspiration for cooperation, solidarity, and joint action in all fields prompted by a profound yearning for unity and a desire to assert its national characteristics and distinguished cultural identity which have been firmly entrenched through the ages, safeguard its security, serve its legitimate interests, take firm steps toward progress and advancement, and consolidate its constructive and positive world role in serving the causes of peace, security, progress, and fruitful, equal cooperation among world nations;

Whereas the Arab nation had, in modern history, witnessed several experiments of joint action, cooperation, and solidarity, achieved certain forms of unity, and learned useful lessons from the positive and negative aspects of those experiments;

And, whereas the foremost of these lessons is cooperation in building the foundations for strengthening all forms of spiritual, cultural, and practical ties among the citizens of the Arab states, a cooperation which occupies a central place in any continuous, persistent, and serious endeavor for joint action and creates the firm practical bases for advancement to higher levels and wider horizons toward achieving the Arab nation's sublime objective of unity as circumstances and practical possibilities permit;

Whereas this constructive, realistic trend is harmonious with present world trends toward creating economic communities which ensure for their member states better conditions to safeguard their interests and achieve development and economic progress,

Believing that cooperation among the Arab states in these fields is of special importance due to the threats to which Arab national security has been, and still is, exposed, threats which are of a security, political, economic, and cultural nature;

Proceeding from the reality that the maintenance of security, peace, and stability in the entire region calls for strengthening Arab awareness of the wholesomeness of pan-Arab security and its requirements and conditions, and also for entrenching this awareness through practical cooperation, coordination, and solidarity;

Considering the similar circumstances of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Iraq, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the YAR in the various fields, and out of these states' faith in the aforementioned principles and values and in expression of their profound desire to find a practical and realistic means to strengthen the formulas of cooperation and to further develop and promote this cooperation, which has continued between them for several years and bore important fruits, as circumstances and capabilities permitted, at every stage until it reached the highest levels of solidarity and joint action;

Guided by the Arab League Charter which permits member states seeking closer cooperation and stronger ties to conclude any agreements fulfilling these aims; And, in accordance with what was agreed upon at the historic meeting which was held in Baghdad among His Majesty King Husayn bin Talal, king of the Hashemnite Kingdom of Jordan; His Excellency Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq; His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; and His Excellency 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic on 9-10 Rajab 1409 Hegira, corresponding to 15-16 February 1989, it has been decided, with God's blessing, to establish the Arab Cooperation Council according to the following:

Article I: The ACC shall be comprised of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Iraq, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the YAR in accordance with the provisions of this agreement. The ACC shall be considered one of the organizations of the Arab nation, adhering to the Arab League charter, the Treaty of Joint Defense and Economic Cooperation, and the institutions and organizations stemming from the Arab League, and establishing ties of cooperation with regional Arab and international communities.

Article II: The ACC aims at:

1. Achieving the highest levels of coordination, cooperation, integration, and solidarity among the member states and promoting them gradually according to circumstances, capabilities, and experiences.

2. Achieving economic integration gradually by coordinating policies on the level of the various productive sectors, coordinating the member states' development plans taking into consideration the different levels of growth and the economic conditions and circumstances experienced by the member states in moving from one stage to another, and achieving that integration and coordination in the following fields in particular:

a. Economy and finance

b. Industry and agriculture

c. Transport, communications, and telecommunications

d. Education, culture, information, scientific research, and technology

e. Social, health, and tourist affairs

f. Regulation of labor, movement, and residence

3. Encouraging investment, joint projects, and economic cooperation between public, private, cooperative, and mixed sectors.

4. Endeavoring to achieve a common market among the member states in order to arrive at the Arab Common Market and Arab economic unity.

5. Strengthening the ties and bonds among the citizens of the member states in all fields.

6. Bolstering and developing joint Arab action in order to strengthen Arab ties.

Article III: The ACC shall work toward the achievement of its objectives through plans and practical measures, including whatever legislation it might consider issuing, adjusting, or standardizing in the various fields.

Article IV:

1. Membership in the ACC shall be open to every Arab state wishing to join it.

2. Membership in the ACC shall be with the approval of all member states.

Article V: The ACC shall consist of the following organizations:

1. The Supreme Council [al-hay'ah al-'ulya]

2. The Ministerial Council [al-hay'ah al-wizariyah]

3. The General Secretariat

Article VI: The Supreme Council, which is the highest ACC authority, shall consist of the heads of the member states.

Article VII: The Supreme Council shall exercise the following powers:

1. Drawing up the ACC's higher policies.

2. Making the necessary decisions on recommendations submitted by the Ministerial Council.

3. Empowering the Ministerial Council with any matter falling within its jurisdictions and functions.

4. Approving the procedures governing its work and their amendments.

5. Appointing the ACC's secretary general.

6. Approving new memberships.

7. Amending the ACC's foundation agreement.

8. Following progress in the implementation of the approved coordination, cooperation, and integration measures.

9. Creating other organizations and standing committees as necessary.

Article VIII:

1. The Supreme Council shall hold an ordinary session once a year in one of the member states on a rotational basis. The Supreme Council shall be chaired by the head of the host state for one full year term.

2. Extraordinary sessions may be held at the invitation of the Supreme Council chairman or by a proposal from one of the member states, seconded by at least another member state. The extraordinary sessions shall be held in the state whose head chairs the Supreme Council.

3. Special sessions may be held with the approval of the heads of the member states in any capital or city in the member states. The convening of such sessions does not change the rules pertaining to the chairmanship of the Supreme Council.

4. The convening of the Supreme Council sessions shall be deemed correct by the attendance of the majority of the member states.

Article IX: The Ministerial Council shall consist of the heads of government of the member states or their representatives.

Article X: The Ministerial Council shall exercise the following powers:

1. Studying affairs and issues related to matters concerning the ACC.

2. Submitting to the Supreme Council plans, proposals, and recommendations concerning the achievement of the ACC's objectives.

3. Taking the necessary practical measures to implement the Supreme Council's decisions.

4. Examining any issue on cooperation, and whenever necessary referring it to ad hoc specialized committees to study it and present the appropriate proposals on it.

5. Drafting the rules governing ACC's work procedures and referring them to the Supreme Council for approval and also proposing any amendments to them when necessary.

6. Approving and amending the General Secretariat's administrative and financial systems.

7. Examining the secretary general's reports concerning the ACC's work.

8. Discussing and approving the General Secretariat's budget and final accounts as well as discussing the secretariat's administrative and financial status.

9. Forming ad hoc committees as necessitated by the ACC's work.

10. Drafting the Supreme Council's agenda.

Article XI: The Ministerial Council shall hold an ordinary session once every 6 months in the member state chairing the Supreme Council. The Ministerial Council shall be chaired by that head of government that state or his representative.

2. Extraordinary sessions may be held at the request of the Ministerial Council's chairman or by a proposal from one of the member states, seconded by at least another member state. Extraordinary sessions shall be held in the member state holding the chairmanship.

3. The convening of the Ministerial Council sessions shall be deemed correct by the attendance of the majority of member states.

Article XII: When adopting decisions in all ACC organizations, the member states shall strive to achieve unanimity and accord among themselves. When this is not possible, decisions shall be adopted on the basis of a majority vote by the member states. The decisions shall be binding to all. Decisions pertaining to membership and amendment of the ACC foundation agreement shall be made by a unanimous vote.

Article XIII:

1. The ACC shall have a General Secretariat based in Amman, headed by a secretary general and consisting of the necessary number of employees.

2. The Supreme Council shall appoint the secretary general from the citizens of the member states on the basis of personal qualifications and faith in the ACC's objectives. The appointment, which will be for 2 years, shall be renewable twice at the most.

3. The General Secretariat employees shall be appointed from the citizens of the member states on the basis of their personal qualifications and faith in the ACC's objectives.

4. The secretary general and the senior employees of the General Secretariat shall enjoy the necessary immunities, privileges, and facilities to enable them to carry out their duties in the headquarters state as well as the member states.

Article XIV:

1. The secretary general is the chief executive of the ACC's General Secretariat. He is directly responsible to the Ministerial Council for all the General Secretariat's functions and good conduct.

2. The secretary general shall assume the following tasks:

a. Following up implementation of the decisions adopted by the Supreme Council and the Ministerial Council.

b. Preparing the necessary reports on the ACC's work for submission to the Ministerial Council and the Supreme Council.

c. Drafting the agenda of the Ministerial Council.

d. Preparing the ACC's draft budget and final accounts.

e. Proposing administrative and financial systems for the General Secretariat and submittting them to the Ministerial Council.

f. Appointing and terminating the services of General Secretariat employees.

g. Performing any tasks assigned to him by the Supreme Council and the Ministerial Council.

Article XV: The headquarters agreement shall be concluded between the host state and the secretary general, acting on behalf of the ACC, after the agreement has been approved by the Ministerial Council.

Article XVI: The General Secretariat shall have an annual budget to which the member states shall contribute equally.

Article XVII:

1. This agreement shall go into force and become valid as of the date of its ratification by the signatory states in accordance with existing constitutional procedures and the deposition of the instruments of ratification with Foreign Ministry of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in its capacity as the headquarters state of the General Secretariat.

2. This agreement shall be binding to the states which join the ACC in accordance with the provisions of Article IV from the date of depositing their membership documents with the ACC General Secretariat.

3. This agreement may be amended in accordance with a unanimous decision by the Supreme Council. The amendment shall be valid from the date of its ratification by the member states in accordance with existing constitutional procedures and the deposition of the instruments of ratification with the ACC General Secretariat.

4. The headquarters state of the General Secretariat shall deposit a copy of this agreement with the Arab League and shall register this agreement with the General Secretariat of the United Nations.

Signed in Baghdad on 10 Rajab 1409 Hegira, corresponding to 16 February 1989.

Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic;

Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt;

Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq; and

Husayn ibn Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Amman Paper Interviews Officials on Arab Council
JN1602090589 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Feb 89 p 5

[Text] Amman—SAWT AL-SHA'B—Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi has stressed that Egypt and Syria are moving in the right direction toward the restoration of relations between the two countries. There is a mutual desire for the return of these relations, he said.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Sidqi said that the only condition for other Arab countries to join the new Arab economic council is the consent of the council's member states. He emphasized that the council's four member states reject in principle the idea of axes. He asked: If what we have done constitutes an axis, then who are the enemies, and who are the friends?

He explained that the Arab League charter allows such cooperation, especially since we consider it an important step and a bloc in the overall Arab solidarity, cohesion, and integration. The council's membership is also open to any Arab country, he added.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian prime minister welcomed a visit any time by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to Egypt. The visit is decided in principle, he said, but King Fahd's circumstances have not yet allowed him to fix a date. He praised the brotherly relations, understanding, and cooperation between Egypt and Saudi Arabia, and asserted that Saudi Arabia is fully informed about the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC]. Saudi Arabia, he said, welcomes the step because it boosts Arab solidarity and because Saudi Arabia is known for its adoption of all Arab causes.

Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, YAR deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that the current political circumstances do not indicate any progress toward achieving peace and convening an international peace conference on the Middle East.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, he added that the Arab side, which has agreed on a peace formula since the Fes summit, made important steps to achieve this peace, while Israel still shows clear intransigence and a lack of desire for peace.

Dr Al-Iryani said that the new ACC is an important step toward unity. It will serve the Arab peoples of its member states, knowing that membership is open to all Arab brothers, he said

On the coordination between YAR and the PDRY concerning the ACC, Dr Al-Iryani said that the PDRY knows about the new step and is studying it. The door is open to them and to all other brothers to join, he added.

Dr Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian first under secretary of the foreign ministry and director of the Egyptian president's office for political affairs, expressed his belief that the international conference cannot be convened before next year at best, and a comprehensive solution cannot be achieved before 2 years of negotiations.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, he said that if intentions turn out to be good, and the United States and the EC play their role in this regard, an agreement on the convening of the international conference may be reached before the end of this year. Some arrangements could then be made, and the conference could be held next year. Extremely difficult and delicate negotiations will then begin, and an agreement could not be reached in less than 2 years.

He added: If Israel insists on its stands, then it will be imperative to tighten the noose around it so that it yields. There is no other choice. The only choice available to Israel, which is looking for alternatives, is to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories.

Answering a question, Al-Baz said that we will not let any opportunity slip that will allow Israel to escape. If the current opportunity is relinquished, peace efforts will suffer seriously in view of the grave situation in the occupied Arab territories, which cannot continue as it is.

He called on the international community to adopt a decisive position to begin the peace talks. If a breakthrough is not achieved within the next few months, the situation will be grave, he said.

He said that the stage of evaluating stands has passed, and the situation is now clear. There is international concern, and what is needed is to make specific moves to begin the peace talks within the framework of the international conference.

Asked about the intransigent Israeli stand, Al-Baz said that Israel always tries to present impossible alternatives knowing in advance that they are unacceptable. It is now talking again about implementing autonomy in the occupied territories despite the fact that this is a thing of the past.

Dr al-Baz wondered: Irrespective of all guarantees, how can elections be held in the occupied Arab territories under the Israeli occupation? Why should such elections take place? What has Israel to do with the selection of the Palestinian people's representatives? This issue concerns the Palestinian people and Israel must accept this and submit to the Palestinian people's will. Dr al-Baz said that Israel must respect the will of the Palestinian people, represented by the PLO, which is their sole and legitimate representative and which expresses their will.

Dr al-Baz continued: Israel cannot continue to cling to past concepts and say that it will not withdraw from the occupied territories. Otherwise, what would be the purpose of negotiations? Are we required to legalize Israeli occupation? Have the Israelis not realized that occupation cannot last as this will lead to more violence, crimes, hatred, tension, and destruction, and that any of these manifestations will not affect one party only but will affect all the parties. We do not want this region to become a furnace where human beings are incinerated, and where wars and conflicts erupt. We want this region to be a region of peace. To achieve this, we must respect Arab rights.

Dr al-Baz said: In the same manner that Israel asks for the right to a secure existence, so is the the case for the Palestinian people who want the same rights. Israel speaks about its existence, and we too need to protect our security.

On the details of the Arab stand, Dr al-Baz said that neither Egypt, Jordan, nor any Arab party can agree to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinian people. There is also not a single Palestinian in the occupied territories who will agree to negotiate outside the framework of the PLO. From this premise, there is no Palestinian or Arab who will agree to the implementation of autonomy under which Israel seeks to relieve itself of the burden of administering the occupied territories while perpetuating occupation and continuing to control the land.

Dr al-Baz said that the substitutes Israel puts forth are to evade the issue and divert world attention from the cause.

Dr al-Baz added: The more the Israeli stand moves closer to direct negotiations within the framework of an international peace conference that will be attended by the five UN Security Council permanent members the more this stand becomes a positive one. I do not know why Israel objects to the attendance of countries like the United Kingdom, France, or the PRC. In the past, Israel used to object to the USSR's participation under the pretext that this participation will give the USSR an important role in the Middle East. Now it contradicts this stand and calls for U.S.-USSR participation but without the participation of the three other countries. Israel adopts rejectionist stands and offers no substitutes.

Dr al-Baz said he hopes that in its dialogue with the PLO the United States would go beyond the stage of merely speaking about terrorism. What is required is that their dialogue focuses on the essence of the cause. We would like the United States to speak about the Palestinians, the state of affairs in the occupied territories, the Palestinians concept of peaceful coexistence, and how countries should define relations among them. We want the United States to communicate to the Palestinians its view on the state of affairs in the region, the issues of occupation, borders, the Palestinian people's rights, and the Palestinian state which will enter into a confederation with Jordan.

Dr al-Baz said: We in Egypt and Jordan hold dialogue with the United States on basic issues. However, this cannot replace U.S.-Palestinian dialogue on these important matters.

In reply to a question, Dr al-Baz denied that he visited Damascus a few days ago. He pointed out that relations between the two countries are improving.

Palestinian Affairs

Hurani on Meetings With U.S. Congressmen

JN1702120889 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 15 Feb 89 pp 1, 14

[By Fathi al-Barqawi from Tunis]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Member 'Abdallah Hurani has affirmed that recent contacts between Palestinian officials and a U.S. senator and a member of the

House of Representatives are merely exploratory meetings in an attempt by the U.S. Administration to devise a dynamism for political movement, to learn more about the Palestine question, and to seek the means to find appropriate solutions for the problem. He described the meetings of the delegations that held talks with Middle Eastern parties as experience for the new U.S. Administration and a reference for it when it formulates its future policy.

PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis on 13 February met with Wayne Owens, member of the U.S. House of Representatives, with whom he discussed the Palestinian viewpoint on peace and the means to develop the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, which was launched on 16 December.

Responding to an AL-BAYAN question on the date for the resumption of Palestinian-U.S. talks, Hurani said he believes talks will not be resumed before April, especially since the U.S. Administration has not yet developed a specific stand.

The PLO Executive Committee member commented on recent statements by U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle and Secretary of State James Baker indicating that the United States is doubtful of 'Arafat's credibility, that Israel knows its security interests well, and that the United States supports it in that. He said there is no need to speak in advance and interpret these statements as the U.S. Administration going back on playing a positive role in the peace process. He affirmed these statements will not make the PLO change its policy, especially regarding armed national struggle.

'Arafat Not To Visit Cyprus in 'Near Future'

NC1702093189 Nicosia AL-NASR in Arabic
15 Feb 89 p 1

[Text] AL-NASR has learned that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will not visit Cyprus in the near future as reported by certain Cypriot newspapers.

It has also been learned that 'Arafat has told Cypriot President Yeoryios Vasiliou that he will respond to his invitation as soon as possible, in order to express his thanks to the president, government, and people of Cyprus for their supportive stand toward the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent national state on their own soil.

President Vasiliou has shown understanding of the reasons why 'Arafat is prevented from visiting Cyprus in the near future. He reiterated that his invitation to the Palestinian leader remains open.

The Embassy of Palestine in Cyprus will be opened within the next few days. The opening ceremony will be attended by a member of the PLO Executive Committee.

'Arafat Gives News Conference in Muscat

PM0302162989 Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic
26 Jan 89 p 3

[Report on news conference by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, also identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, on 25 January in Muscat by Hammud ibn Salim al-Siyabi, Salim ibn Rashid al-Na'ibi, and 'Abdallah Hasan]

[Text] At the conclusion of his visit to the Sultanate, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held a press conference at midday yesterday [25 Jan] at the Al-Ghabrah guest palace. It was attended by PLO Official Spokesman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, editors of local newspapers, and radio, television, and agency correspondents.

At the beginning of the news conference, 'Arafat said: Allow me, on my own behalf and on behalf of my brother members of the delegation, our people and masses of the blessed uprising in our occupied territory, to express our deep thanks to his majesty the sultan for his noble invitation and for the sincere fraternal talks and patriotic spirit I sensed in his majesty and in my brothers and kinfolk, the people of this noble and hospitable country, Oman. I tell his majesty the sultan and my brothers, the people of fraternal Oman, that we are together hand in hand until, God willing, we pray in holy Jerusalem.

The press conference then began.

Question: Has the controversy between you and the U.S. Administration on statements attributed to you, which the U.S. Administration considered a threat to peace, been resolved?

'Arafat: First of all, there was a misunderstanding on the issue of Ilyas Frayj. We see that as interference in Palestinian affairs. Why? Because nothing of the kind happened between me and my brother Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj. I spoke at a meeting in Saudi Arabia and someone else spoke before me and voiced his opinion. We have a democracy, and we talk very frankly. I was answering him. I consider what happened to be interference in Palestinian affairs, because Ilyas Frayj is Palestinian, and nobody has a right to interfere in Palestinian affairs. Ilyas Frayj is protected by the PLO, not by the U.S. Administration. If the United States is concerned about Ilyas Frayj, why does it not show some concern for the Palestinian children killed every day by the military gang occupying our country? However, I consider this subject closed.

Question: Is there a specific Arab strategy agreed on with the PLO on all the changes related to the Palestinian question on the one hand and Israeli intransigence on the other? What if no international peace conference is held? If a conference is held, would it meet all Palestinian and Arab expectations? What would be the alternative in the event of a deadlock in connection with the Arab cause?

When will we be able to call a meeting of triumph and restoration of Arab rights? Do you think that time is a positive or a negative factor at present?

'Arafat: There can be no doubt that we are going through extremely important and serious circumstances. I must point out here that there is Arab solidarity. It was clearly demonstrated when I delivered my Geneva speech. My brothers, the Arab foreign ministers, were with me at the United Nations as a clear manifestation of Arab solidarity with the PLO and support for the recent PNC resolutions in Algiers. Then there was unanimous Arab recognition of the Palestinian state and the strong Arab welcome and support for our Algiers PNC resolutions, as well as the Palestinian initiative, which in fact accurately mirrors the Arab peace plan approved at the Fes conference in Morocco in 1982.

When talking about time, we should realize that tactically time is not in our favor but strategically it is in our favor. We are moving with the current of history, whereas our enemy is moving against that current. So, sooner or later, our people will attain their inalienable national rights, including their rights to repatriation, self-determination, and an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. This is the current of history and, whether Israel and its allies like it or not, nobody can stand in its way. There is much evidence that we and our enemies should look at. All tyrants throughout history have disappeared. Where is Hitler and where are French, British, American, Portuguese, and Spanish imperialism? They have all disappeared, but the Arab land, language, and people remain.

Today, there is an Arab and international consensus in favor of an international conference. It is no coincidence that 138 states, including the EC, support an international conference outlined by the PLO after my Geneva speech as an effective international conference under UN supervision with the participation of the UN Security Council's permanent members and all the parties to the region's conflict, including the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, for the purpose not of stating, but of fulfilling, the Palestinian people's national rights. Clearly there is an Israeli attempt to play for time and to waste our time. It is acknowledged that this year is a strategically important year for U.S. decisionmaking before the new U.S. Administration is plunged into the whirlpool of other problems. That is why it is very important that an international conference is held this year.

In view of the Arab consensus, we call for an urgent summit conference to be held as soon as possible, in an ordinary or extraordinary session, to draw up a joint plan to consolidate Palestinian and Arab success on the Palestinian front. There is a military saying that success must be consolidated.

Question: It is being said in some world capitals that the PLO's recognition of all UN resolutions has created some confusion regarding the borders of the Palestinian state, so much so that when recognizing the Palestinian state, the Soviet Union, as a superpower, said that the recognition does not imply legal commitments. The question, Abu 'Ammar, is what is the Palestinian reply to these arguments and what borders have you drawn up for the Palestinian independent state?

'Arafat: First I must mention something important here. What you said about the Soviet Union does not apply here. The Soviet Union has taken an initiative unprecedented in its history. It did not, for example, recognize the Vietnamese Government when it was formed, but it did recognize the Palestinian state declared by the PNC and, in doing so, has sidestepped all Soviet legal procedures and protocols.

As regards the Palestinian state's borders, they are the legitimate international borders approved by the United Nations.

Question: The latest PNC session in Algiers is considered more positive about the establishment of peace in the Middle East, but the Israelis still refuse to negotiate with the PLO and are opposed to an international conference. If their intransigence continued, what alternative solutions would you propose to make Israel respond to international appeals?

'Arafat: Continuation of the uprising until the Israeli occupation of our territory ends and the Palestinian flag is raised over Jerusalem, God willing.

Question: When a Palestinian state is established on Palestinian soil, it will have as a neighbor possibly a politically vanquished or, depending on the course of events, the stable state of Israel. Do you believe that Israel will be a peaceful neighbor to the Palestinian state? How do you view this matter strategically?

'Arafat: Regrettably, Israel cannot possibly be a peaceful neighbor for the simple reason that under the Zionist creed the land of Israel extends from the Nile to the Euphrates. The Israeli flag has two blue lines, one representing the Nile and the other the Euphrates, and between the two lines the Israeli star. We ask Shamir, what does the Herut song say? It says the West Bank is ours and so is the East [Bank]. I did not make this up. Israel is an aggressive state.

When Israel committed the crime, under British law, of abducting Israeli scientist Vanunu from Britain, nobody said anything. He admitted that Israel had 120 nuclear bombs. These bombs are not targeted on the uprising in Galilee, Jerusalem, or Nabulus. They are targeted on the Arab states, with six bombs for each Arab capital. So what peace are they talking about? Some Israeli Government officials talk about change. Sharon says: We have decided to kill the Palestinian leaders, and I have twice

failed to kill 'Arafat. Yet nobody said anything, but when the U.S. delegate failed to understand a passing word [by 'Arafat] they raised hell. That is clear bias.

Question: What point has PLO-Jordan coordination reached?

'Arafat: As you well know, there is a Jordanian-Palestinian coordination committee covering cooperation on all common issues, including giving impetus to efforts to establish peace and hold an international conference. There is a similar Egyptian-Palestinian committee. We call for the formation of a committee from all the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, namely Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and the PLO. I hope we succeed in forming such a committee.

Question: What issues did you discuss with the sultanate's officials. Did you discuss the establishment of a Palestinian embassy in Muscat?

'Arafat: I have left the embassy question to his majesty the sultan, to determine the appropriate time for that. The discussions covered a number of important Palestinian, Arab, and international issues. I thanked his majesty for his personal efforts in the interest of the Palestinian cause. If he makes these efforts quietly, it is because he is modest. Great efforts have been made and, God willing, the efforts exerted by Oman and the sultan in aid of the Palestinian people will continue until they reach their independent homeland.

Question: The Israeli entity has been on Arab territory for 40 years. The PLO's recognition of the legitimacy of the Israeli presence has shocked the Arab public. What is your reaction to that? Does it mean that you accept the fait accompli imposed by the United States on Arabs in general?

'Arafat: I have been fighting ghosts since 1965! The Beirut siege was by ghosts, and the battles in Lebanon were between me and ghosts! The battles in the occupied territory are an uprising against ghosts! It is against Israeli occupation. I am not a romantic. I am a politician who deals in realities, as did Saladin when he signed the Al-Ramlah peace and the Prophet when he concluded the Al-Hudaybah peace. People deal in realities, not dreams.

Question: It has been claimed that one of the reasons for the deterioration between Amal and Hizballah was the agreement between the PLO and Amal. How true is that?

'Arafat: Amal had fought our camps, so we signed an agreement ending the fighting between us and Amal. We are not involved in the Amal-Hizballah conflict. In fact, we have made efforts and acted as a go-between disengagement force. I have made an appeal for an end to the fighting. And, in many positions, our forces have managed to prevent clashes. We will continue to do so.

Question: The blessed uprising is continuing on the proud soil of Palestine and is offering martyrs every day, and life is getting more and more difficult for the Palestinian population. What kind of aid does the PLO extend to the people, and why is there no urgent move to check this repression by the occupation authorities in the occupied territories?

'Arafat: We do not "aid" the uprising. It is a part of us, and we plan it and fight through it just as we fight and face the daily Israeli military aggression against our camps in southern Lebanon.

There are 28,000 Palestinians in Israeli prisons. Scores of thousands were there before the uprising, either as prisoners or detainees. The Arab financial decisions made at the Algiers summit so far have not been implemented as agreed. There is social complementation between the Palestinian families in the occupied territory and outside. The well-off help the poor. Huge amounts of funds are required to treat the 30,000 wounded. Tens of thousands of dollars are needed for operations. The universities need funds. About 50 percent of the workers do not go to work. The businessmen, merchants, and employees have also suffered. The 19,000 employees whose salaries were paid by the Jordanian treasury are now paid by the PLO. The Israelis, despite all their restrictions on the entry of funds, will not be able to stop these funds from reaching our people. The PLO wants to honor its commitment to its people and children.

Question: It is known that from time to time the PLO makes appreciated efforts to bring Arab views closer together in the interest of Arab solidarity. We would like to hear something from you about the latest such efforts.

'Arafat: I want to say here that I do not want to talk about that. Let the facts speak for themselves. We have made efforts with a number of Arab states and produced positive results, and we will, God willing, continue to do so as we are one family.

Question: When do you expect an international conference to be held and what, in your view, is the difference between former U.S. President Reagan and President Bush?

'Arafat: To the first part of the question, I say it is very important that an international conference convenes this year.

As to the difference between the two presidents, I do not anticipate events. I cannot assess Bush's policy, because he only just began his term of office as president. Reagan, however, was extremely negative and aligned with Israel.

Khalaf on Proposed Government, Conference
PM1602164489 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 17 Feb 89 p 24

[Unattributed interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad; date, place not given]

[Text] AL-HAWADITH: Why did you accept Resolution 242, having constantly rejected it since 1967?

Abu Iyad: The proclamation of the Palestinian state filled the gap in Resolution 242, which regarded the issue as a refugee problem. Then came the next stipulation, namely, withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, on which the Palestinian state will be established. The intifadah's [uprising] success in establishing itself as a revolution of an active people who cannot be defeated or crushed—an active revolution of constant daily struggle—paved the road to recognition of that resolution. Then came King Husayn's decision to sever links with the West Bank, and then international detente between the two superpowers. All this sped up recognition. In fact, had it not been for the present Arab situation, we would not have recognized it.

AL-HAWADITH: Do the constant stream of political solutions proposed affect the intifadah's thrust?

Abu Iyad: The intifadah has given the nation a great power of struggle and defiance. Men, women, and children within the occupied territories have proved their ability to overthrow that false entity within the occupied territories.

Some thought that the intifadah would continue for a month or two, and others thought it would continue for a week or two. But our people have shown great self-sacrifice, as the intifadah has now entered its 16th month and is still continuing with unshakable strength.

The value of this intifadah is that it is both powerful and consistent, and no power in the world can stop it before Palestine's flag is raised over Jerusalem. The Palestinian revolution cannot suffer a setback because the intifadah is behind it. They [not further identified] said it was launched from within and tried to cause a conflict between those outside and those within [the occupied territories]. They also tried to shake the people's forces by trying to split them, but discovered that demonstrations were being staged from churches as well. They wagered indiscriminately on the end of the revolution, but their hopes have been dashed by the continuing intifadah.

AL-HAWADITH: International speculations indicate that Israel will carry out military or terrorist acts or physical liquidations against the revolution's leaders both within and outside. Do you expect that?

Abu Iyad: Yes. It is true. Israel is facing a real dilemma and international isolation—something that Moshe Arens has admitted. Israel will remain isolated for nearly a year, maintaining its intransigent political stances, offering no concessions, and ignoring all public calls for peace.

Our confirmed bit of information indicates that Israel will carry out a series of military and security operations in more than one direction, one of them against Lebanon or Syrian forces in Al-Biqa', with the aim of diverting attention from the intifadah and Palestinian political moves by carrying out a new aggressive act. It could also provoke Jordan, in order to create a new situation. It will also try to stage a large-scale assassination campaign against PLO leaders and to carry out a series of terrorist operations abroad, such as that against the Pan Am aircraft. It could also destroy four to five synagogues and then accuse the Palestinians. The Israelis could use suspect Palestinians.

A few days ago, the Australian police supplied all airports in Australia with copies of a statement sent by an unknown person, saying: We, Yasir 'Arafat's organization, warn you regarding nonrecognition of the new Palestinian state, and if you do not recognize it, we will carry out terrorist operations against your aircraft and airports. The Mosad could even carry out an operation against Australia in order to confirm this fabricated statement and cause a rift between the PLO and Australia. Something similar will take place elsewhere to strengthen their campaigns against us.

While preparing to launch an attack, as I said earlier, they will also try to preoccupy world public opinion with marginal initiatives such as elections in the occupied territories or the convening of a small-scale international conference attended by the United States and the Soviet Union only, in addition to a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. But they will eventually agree to the international conference and accept negotiators from the PLO. The year 1989 will be one of real steadfastness—struggle, political, and Arab steadfastness. No more concessions will be made than those we have already made and offered. If we and the Arabs stand fast through the end of 1989, we will witness a major political transformation.

AL-HAWADITH: Will the international conference convene in the near future?

Abu Iyad: The international peace conference will, God willing, be convened in the near future if all the Arab states so desire. The Arab states' pressure on the international community will cause Israel to submit to international pressures and agree to the conference. In a press conference in Amman, Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] called for the formation of an Arab committee comprised of Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine to coordinate and prepare for the international conference. We are anxious to establish friendly relations with all Arab states. And since we do not interfere in others' affairs, we demand that no one interfere in our affairs.

We want the international conference and reject direct negotiations, which some are trying to drag us into. We agree to be part of a joint Arab delegation to any international meeting, but refuse a Syrian-Palestinian delegation or a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. This, because shared representation would mean shared rights and achieve nothing. Our state requires unity with Jordan—a decision that we took in 1983 and have reiterated in all our conferences. A state such as ours must be united with Jordan, with Syria, with Saudi Arabia.... That would give us a vast extension, but talking about any unionist steps before the establishment of the state means destroying both the solutions and the state.

We hope that the international conference will be convened in 1989 or 1990; otherwise we would return once again to the U.S. whirlpool of congressional elections, the U.S. presidential elections, and so on.

AL-HAWADITH: How do you see the status of U.S.-Palestinian relations in the George Bush era?

Abu Iyad: The U.S. President's recent statements are encouraging, and we hope that President Bush's era will be more positive with regard to Arab and Palestinian rights.

From his previous responsibilities and positions in Beijing and as CIA chief, we know President Bush to be a man of principle. And we hope he will lean more toward moderation when dealing with the Palestinian problem. True, the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue is still limited so far, but we hope that the period ahead will witness a relaxation so that the dialogue can be raised above the ambassadorial level.

AL-HAWADITH: When do you expect a Palestinian government to be formed?

Abu Iyad: The PNC has decided to postpone the government issue until suitable political conditions exist. The Executive Committee has referred the issue to legal circles to study the relationship between the PLO and the government as well as the relationship between the government and PLO departments.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the European states' position toward the PLO?

Abu Iyad: The European position in general has not been on level with the PLO decisions, in the case of either the PNC or Abu 'Ammar's UN address in Geneva. For instance, France has taken only one step, namely, to upgrade the status of the PLO's office in Paris to that of a legation, which is not enough. France should have sent an invitation to brother Abu 'Ammar to pay an official visit to France, but this has not happened.

Europe should have recognized the Palestinian state or the PLO, but this has not happened. The European response is still very slow. The positive element that we can see in the European position is the British approach, which has developed rapidly, leading to a reasonable stance. The British Government sent Minister of State for Foreign Affairs William Waldegrave to Tunis, where he met and held extensive talks with Brother Abu 'Ammar.

AL-HAWADITH: Israel is trying to put forward the idea of holding elections in the occupied territories. Has the PLO any plan to prevent these elections or exploit them in the interests of the cause?

Abu Iyad: Israel tried to hold elections before, in 1976. But when all the results were in favor of the PLO, it tried to kill mayors and expelled the rest. If Israel wants to hold elections for the Palestinians within, there is no objection, as long as it withdraws from the [West] Bank and the Gaza [Strip] and hands them over to the UN emergency forces. Then the elections can be held.

AL-HAWADITH: How would you assess Palestinian-Saudi relations?

Abu Iyad: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the first Arab state to fully meet its obligations. It also spares no effort to support the Palestinian cause. Saudi support for the Palestinian people and the Palestinian cause is the object of appreciation and gratitude on the part of all Palestinian and Arab people. That support has great impact on Palestinian steadfastness, which will continue until our legitimate rights are regained and the independent state is established on national soil.

Without the Arab and Islamic nation's backing, the Palestinian people will be unable to advance their legitimate struggle. Saudi Arabia is the backbone of Arab solidarity. It employs all ways and means to support it, to overcome marginal differences, and to achieve Arab reconciliations in both the Mashriq and the Maghreb.

Faruq Qaddumi on Relations With U.S., Turkey

TA1602173789 Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 13 Feb 89 PP 1, 12

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Executive Committee's political department, by Sabetay Varol in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Varol] As you know, Turkey was one of the first five countries to recognize the Palestinian state. Currently on the agenda is the question of raising the PLO representation in Ankara to embassy level. During my meeting with Yasir 'Arafat on Monday, I asked him his views on this subject. He said: The natural step we expected Turkey to take following the recognition of the state was to transform the PLO representation in Ankara to a genuine embassy of the Palestinian state. According to an AFP report that I am holding now, sources close to the Turkish Government note that the representation in Ankara can be turned into a Palestinian Embassy only if you establish a transitional government. In other words, the matter is being handled from a legal aspect. What is your reaction to this?

Qaddumi: Turkey is a friendly country. We have always frankly discussed our bilateral relations with our friends in Turkey. We do not see any problem with regard to raising the representation in Ankara to the level of embassy. The matter has been entrusted to the care of our friends in Turkey and will be brought up for discussion as soon as possible.

[Varol] Do you believe that a lack of change in the status of the PLO bureau could signify an actual reduction in its level?

Qaddumi: No. There is no question of a reduction in level. Our ties with Turkey are becoming stronger. Turkey is an important country, playing a very significant role within the Islamic Conference, among other European countries, and in the assistance it extends to the Palestinians. Raising the PLO representation to the ambassadorial level is a subject that can always be brought up for discussion with our Turkish friends. We have been promised that the Turks will do whatever they believe is possible, and to this end they will reassess their current position on the issue.

[Varol] The AFP report mentions the condition of establishing a transitional Palestinian government.

Qaddumi: If that is the case, then it will only take place when such a government is established. It is not a difficult matter to raise the level of representation. The important thing is the interest Turkey shows in supporting our cause. All these things can be resolved when we legally and effectively have our own state.

[Varol] Can we say that the Palestinians do not wish to dramatize this issue?

Qaddumi: It will suffice to write what we have said.

[Varol] Could we say this if we wanted to summarize your statement?

Qaddumi: You will translate it into your language. We have our own language.

[Varol] Following Mr 'Arafat's peace initiative, the Palestinians have begun wielding greater influence in the international arena. As you know, Turkey is involved in the Cyprus problem. Can you not undertake moves, especially vis-a-vis the nonaligned countries, to balance the Cyprus problem in favor of the Turkish side?

Qaddumi: We have not been asked to do anything. Should we be asked, we would be ready to undertake anything in our power in a bid to improve the intercommunal balance in Cyprus. No such request has been submitted to us.

[Varol] You mean no such request has been submitted by Turkey.

Qaddumi: Yes.

[Varol] Do you believe that the recent U.S. human rights report severely condemning Israel is a positive step?

Qaddumi: Positive... We can say that it is not negative.

Dialogue With the United States

[Varol] In a further development, Israel claimed that you violated your word on not resorting to terrorist actions. Israel asked the United States to end its dialogue with the PLO. According to press reports, the U.S. ambassador in Tunisia issued you a warning. Despite everything, however, the United States did not comply with Israel's wishes. Do you regard this as another positive development? Or do you think that the accusation that you have reverted to terrorism whenever there is an incident hangs over your head like the sword of Damocles?

Qaddumi: No one has recently accused us of engaging in terrorism; nor has anyone discussed this subject with us. I believe that we will continue our dialogue with the United States, even if it is conducted at a slow pace. The pace is not important.

[Varol] When you say that there were no contacts between you and the Americans over the incident at the Lebanese border, do you mean to deny press reports to that effect?

Qaddumi: As is known, south Lebanon is under Israeli occupation. Israelis are continuously conducting armed attacks against refugee camps and Lebanese villages. It is the right of the Palestinians and Lebanese to react against these aggressions. During the period this area is under Israeli occupation, the Lebanese, and the Palestinians supporting them, will continue to resist in self-defense in accordance with the UN charter.

Yes to Stonethrowing, No to Arms

[Varol] What you are saying could be valid for the whole of Palestine?

Qaddumi: I believe you are asking about our stand on waging an armed struggle. Our tactic in the occupied areas is different: Yes to our children throwing stones, no to arms.

[Varol] In other words, you make no commitments about not using violence.

Qaddumi: We have made no commitments to anybody, and we are not ready to do so. We will do whatever is in the Palestinians' interest. Sometimes we resort to armed struggle, sometimes we do not. We are in a position to react strongly whenever we are attacked.

[Varol] Israeli leaders are making proposals in different ways. Most of these proposals include local elections. What will you lose if you say yes to some of these proposals, without giving up your right to self-determination, including the right to establish a state?

Qaddumi: Such elections would mean that the PLO does not represent all Palestinians. The PLO, however, is the representative of all Palestinians. This is one of the reasons we reject elections under occupation. Another reason is that elections under occupation means you are under Israeli pressure and interference. Our people must act free of any foreign pressures. A third reason is the following: We had experience in this field in 1976. Do you know what happened to the mayors and municipal council members who were elected? They were all murdered. Therefore, what must be done is a referendum, naturally, held after the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops and the placing of these territories under UN control...

[Varol] Should Israel, under international pressure and fear of being isolated, agree to an international conference will you not be trapped again?

Qaddumi: You have forgotten a point. The uprising, the intifadah [uprising], will destroy all Israel's prospects for continuing its terror acts against Palestinians. We are not in a state of stagnation. We are waging a struggle. Time is working to our advantage.

[Varol] Swedish Foreign Minister Andersson, whose shuttling between you and the United States gave him the main role in the establishment of dialogue, has said, following the UN session in Geneva, that he might continue to resort to this kind of "secret diplomacy" between Israelis and Palestinians. Do you believe such a secret diplomacy could be a valid process?

Qaddumi: It is of no use. What we need is public discussions within the framework of an international conference. Nothing should remain secret. If they are ready to make peace, let them participate in the international conference. This is the only way out. Let them not waste time. We are aware that they are using various means to gain time by sitting behind closed doors trying to give the impression that they are making efforts to find a solution.

[Varol] Why did you agree to secret diplomacy with the Americans?

Qaddumi: It was not secret. A secret should remain a secret. What everybody knows about is not a secret.

[Varol] Not much was known until the Stockholm meetings.

Qaddumi: Everybody knew. When something remains a secret, then participants can always deny their statements. We are obliged to deal openly in order to prevent intrigues.

PFLP Warns Against Meetings With Israelis

JN1602190389 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] In a statement issued in Beirut, the PFLP warned against the negative repercussions of meetings between Palestinian personalities and Israeli Labor Party members in the occupied territories. The statement said that, through these meetings, the Israelis aim to abort the intifadah [uprising] and force the PLO to hold direct talks with Israel.

Al-Quds Radio on Meetings

JN1602213089 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Struggler brothers: At a time when the 5-year-old child Iktimal 'Abdallah Wahdan is martyred; at a time when Zionist settlers are hurling toxic material to kill our children; at a time when the arms of our youths and children rise in the face of the oppressive Zionist-American machine; at a time when our heroic detainees in Zionist, Nazi-like lockup facilities are facing all forms of oppression, torture, and persecution, we hear that a meeting was held the day before yesterday [14 February] at the Hotel Notre Dame du France between a number of Palestinians who have broken away from the consensus of our people and a number of Zionist terrorists.

Attending the meeting on the Palestinian side were Ziyad Abu Zayyad, proprietor of the Hebrew language newspaper AL-JISR; Sari Nusaybah, sponsor of the Jerusalem municipal election project; Ghassan al-Khatib, a signatory of the deportees document; Khalil Muhayshi; Hanan 'Ashrawi; Mamduh al-'Akar; Sam'an Khuri, AFP correspondent; Faysal al-Husayni, recently released by the Zionists and who said that the meeting was similar to meetings held previously and that he plans further meetings and contacts with the American Zionists.

Attending on the Zionist side were the terrorists Yosi Beilin; Avraham Burg; Efrayim Sene, [former] head of the Civil Administration; Nimrod Novik, adviser to terrorist Shim'on Peres; Hayim Ramon and Hayim Tzadoq of the Zionist Labor Party; and El'azar Granot and Ya'ir Tzaban of MAPAM. Terrorist Ya'ir Tzaban expressed his confidence that in the near future there will be a series of intensive meetings between various leaders from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and Zionist personalites.

Tzaban added that a similar meeting was held last month. Every such meeting, he added, features an exchange of views on current developments and international initiatives. Tzaban said his delegation and the Palestinian representative sought to keep the meetings confidential. Neither party divulged the content of the discussions and consultations that took place at the meeting.

Israel's 'Jamming' of Al-Quds Radio Stopped
WA1502211389

[Editorial Report] On 13 February the Jordanian Arabic-language daily AL-DUSTUR reported that the clandestine radio Al-Quds was now being heard in the West Bank and Gaza Strip "with perfect clarity." The French press agency AFP, reporting from Jerusalem on 14 February, said that Israel had "stopped jamming" the radio recently.

FBIS observations on 13 February confirm that the heterodyne interference, observed since 11 February 1988 on the frequencies used by Al-Quds, is no longer present. FBIS first monitored Al-Quds Radio on 1 January 1988, and the radio carried its first reports on the situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip 11 days later. Current reception of the radio in Tel Aviv and Amman on 702 khz is excellent.

'U.S. Sources' on Israeli Plans for Attack
JN1502212989 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 14 Feb 89 p 1

[Text] Washington-AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM—Informed U.S. sources have revealed to AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that Israeli Chief of Staff General Dan Shomron, who is currently visiting the United States, presented Pentagon officials at the end of the week with three Israeli military plans prepared by the Israeli army general staff to hit Arab and Palestinian targets and institutions in the near future. The sources, who asked not to be named, clarified that the Israeli general staff, according to the plan, will coordinate and cooperate with the Israeli Ministry of Defense to set the appropriate time for the implementation.

The sources said that the first military plan deals with Israeli Air Force planes bombing and destroying the Libyan pharmaceutical factory, which Israel and the United States claim produces chemical weapons. The sources added that the military plan includes maps of the target region and aerial photos of the Libyan factory. The second military plan calls for the Israeli Air Force to hit and destroy other factories in specified locations deep in Syria.

The sources cited Shomron as saying, during his presentation of this military plan, that the military operation could be expanded to include targets in Iraq.

The third military plan talks of dealing a military blow to Palestinian organizations on the Lebanese coast and western Al-Biqa'. The U.S. sources said that Gen Shomron discussed the military plans with a Pentagon official for many hours.

Mosad Planning Assassinations
NC1702100389 Nicosia AL-NASR in Arabic 15 Feb 89 p 1

[Text] Palestinian security organs have obtained important information to the effect that the Israeli Mosad has dispatched terrorist networks to some European countries with the aim of assassinating certain Palestinian leaders.

Correction to 'Uprising' Call No 34
JN1402092089

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "'Uprising' Leadership Isues Call No 34," published in the 13 February 1989 Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, pages 13-16.

Page 13, column one, paragraph five, penultimate sentence: ... heroic masses in Gaza, Hebron, Jerusalem, and .... (clearing indistinct word)

Page 14, column one, paragraph two, sentence one: ... paid to the treasury of occupation. In light .... (clearing indistinct word)

Page 14, column one, paragraph four, sentence one: ... of Zionist products that have Palestinian substitutes. The Unified National .... (clearing queried words)

Page 14, column two, paragraph two, sentence one: ... alert and vigilant against infiltrators, thieves, and drug traffickers, who try to create social problems among the masses. It also calls on the vigilant eyes of the intifadah to expose these cowardly traitors. The Unified National Leadership .... (clearing indistinct words)

Page 14, column two, same paragraph, last sentence: despicable attempts to trap and recruit some naive ... (clearing indistinct word, changing "or" to "and")

Page 15, column one, last paragraph, sentence one: ... equipment and firearms on the one hand, and the stones of our glorious intifadah, thus equating the two. It also calls for an end to .... (clearing indistinct words)

Egypt

Soviet Envoy on Upcoming Visit by Shevardnadze

NC1602135889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 Feb (MENA)—Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev has stressed that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Egypt on Monday assumes special importance because it is the first visit to Egypt by a Soviet official of this level for many years. At a news conference today, the Soviet ambassador said that Shevardnadze will bring with him a number of ideas to boost the peace process in the short and long term and to emphasize the Soviet Union's ties with the region. He said that his country is playing an effective role in settling the Middle East crisis and establishing peace in the interest of the region's peoples, particularly now that the time has come to embark on an active effort to achieve this goal.

The Soviet ambassador stressed his country's interest in working to find a just and comprehensive settlement and encouraging the peace process in the Middle East and the Gulf region. He noted that the Soviet Union is playing special attention to efforts to advance the peace efforts in the Middle East, settle the Palestinian issue, achieve peace in the Gulf region, and bolster ties between the Soviet Union and Egypt.

At his news conference, the Soviet ambassador referred to the proclamation of the quadripartite grouping of Egypt, Jordan, and Iraq, the charter of which has been signed in Baghdad. He said his country welcomes the unification of Arab efforts to resolve economic problems.

Commenting on the Afghan issue and the Soviet forces' withdrawal from Afghanistan, the Soviet ambassador said the settlement of the Afghanistan problem will be possible only by reducing military tension within the country. He noted that, despite the Soviet forces' withdrawal, which is the first practical step in this direction, weapons which kill hundreds of people every day are still being sent to Afghanistan.

He remarked that it is time that the channels feeding the Afghan war were blocked and an opportunity provided to initiate a peaceful dialogue and to allow millions of Afghan refugees to return to their homeland. The Soviet ambassador stressed that the United Nations, which sponsored the Geneva negotiations on Afghanistan, could play a major role in this respect by sending special UN units and convening an international conference with a view to speeding up the establishment of peace in Afghanistan.

Mubarak Returns From Visit to Baghdad 16 Feb

NC1602183089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak returned home this evening from Baghdad after signing an agreement on the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council.

Mubarak on Cooperation Council Formation

NC1602200689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 Feb (MENA)—Speaking to journalists following his return to Cairo tonight, President Husni Mubarak said that the quadripartite agreement to set up the "Arab Cooperation Council" [ACC] is part of a process which we begin with modest steps, but we intend to keep going. Mubarak said that the move stresses substance rather than appearance and aims to serve the interests of the nations involved.

Mubarak said he believes that the ACC could become the core of a larger grouping including other countries. He states that the ACC will seek to further the interests of member countries, as well as the rest of the Arab world.

The president was asked about the benefits which will accrue to ACC citizens from the establishment of the grouping and how such benefits will be felt by the ordinary Egyptians, Jordanians, Iraqis, and Yemenis. Mubarak answered by saying that the move is a historic one that should not be expected to yield fruit in days or weeks. It is a process that will take time, he said. We should first lay firm foundations and then proceed gradually and with calculated steps. Hasty steps, Mubarak said, may not lead to beneficial results and could even disrupt the grouping.

Mubarak said that current steps are made following careful study of previous experiences and will take time to bear fruit. He announced that the leaders of the four nations will meet in Cairo in May to discuss the formation of the ACC Secretariat and other organizational matters. The ACC will also select a secretary general, but this will take time and preparation, and we do not want to rush matters, for if we do that, our work will be sloppy and we will regret it, Mubarak said.

Asked if ACC membership will be open to other Arab nations, such as the Arab Maghreb states, Mubarak said: We can accept states but not groups, for it is possible that some members of other groupings will not want to joint the ACC. I prefer that individual nations look at the ACC and decide to join. Arab states are welcome to do that. We are all Arabs, and this is an Arab grouping aimed to serve the Arab interests, Mubarak stated.

Mubarak was asked if the ACC would seek to acquire military force in the future. He answered by saying: Would it make sense for us to seek military power for this grouping which is just starting? The president said that the goal which we seek is to raise our people's standard of living. We want to cooperate for our people's benefit and not to spend money on war and bloodshed. This is not how we think. If this were our goal, then the thinking behind the ACC has been wrong from the beginning.

Sidqi Cited on Quadripartite Economic Grouping
PM1602085789 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Feb 89 p 1

[Unattributed report: "'Atif Sidqi to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Quadripartite Grouping Is Common Arab Action Formula"]

[Text] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that there is a trend in favor of convening a summit comprising the leaders of Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and North Yemen [YAR] in the first week of March in order to proclaim the establishment of a quadripartite economic grouping which will be called the "Arab Cooperation Council."

Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the new quadripartite grouping represents a common Arab action formula and its idea was derived from the existence of high-level bilateral committees between Egypt and the three Arab states.

Sidqi indicated that it has been decided that agreements signed under the new grouping will be presented to the Egyptian parliament for discussion and approval.

Informed sources have confirmed that the complete plan of the quadripartite grouping, whose final form will be decided by the four leaders at their summit, will be submitted to the Egyptian parliament in March.

The grouping will begin its official activities through high-level joint meetings comprising the ministers concerned in the four states, that is, after the approval of the Egyptian parliament and the appropriate quarters in the other three states.

The sources also told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that there is a proposal to convene the four leaders' summit in Cairo in order to officially proclaim the establishment of the quadripartite grouping, especially as the the prime ministers of the four states will meet in Amman next Tuesday.

The sources said that the quadripartite consultations held during recent days have resulted in the preparation of the agreement on the grouping's bylaws, which stipulates a 5-year transitional period during which work would begin toward standardizing economic and trade transactions. Then the establishment of complete economic unity and a common market comprising the four states would be proclaimed.

The sources pointed out that during the transitional period work would continue under the agreements signed by the parties to the grouping, the high-level bilateral committee would continue to meet, and a quadripartite ministerial council as well as a summit council would be formed.

Meanwhile, AFP has quoted an informed political source in Amman as saying that the possibility of Syria joining the quadripartite grouping plan between Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and the YAR was discussed by Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Jordanian officials.

The day before yesterday Al-Zu'bi began a 3-day visit to Amman where he met with the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn.

The sources pointed out that Amman believes that Syria's differences with Egypt and Iraq should not prevent the establishment of economic relations.

But Jordanian political circles believes that Syria will "take its time before making any decision on the subject."

Palestinian Official on PLO Office in Cairo
NC1602164289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1526 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 Feb (MENA)—A PLO representative in Cairo Sa'id Kamal has said that the PLO's office in Egypt has been assuming its activities as an embassy since Egypt recognized the Palestinian state, which was proclaimed at the conclusion of the PNC meetings in Algiers on 15 November. Kamal noted that the question of changing the status of the PLO headquarters in Cairo into an embassy is a matter of form.

He expressed his resentment at questions by some, who lack knowledge of the true Egyptian stand on the recognition of Palestine and the PLO in its capacity as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. In this respect, the Palestinian official affirmed that Egypt's recognition of Palestine and the PLO is long-standing and well- established, and that it preceded any other country's recognition.

He noted the Egyptian Council of Ministers' resolution in 1975 published in the official gazette, stating that the PLO is a political body that enjoys all authorities and prestige.

'Abd al-Majid Views Saudi Talks, Libya, Syria
PM1602095789 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Feb 89 p1,2

[Mahir 'Abbas report: "'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Saudi Arabia Was Behind the Cessation of Campaigns Between Egypt and Libya and Syria"]

[Excerpts] Al-Khubar, Riyadh, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau, SPA—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, received two messages from President Husni Mubarak and President Saddam Husayn during his meetings with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and Iraqi Ambassador to Saudi Arabia 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Sabbagh in his office at Al-'Aziziyah Palace in Al-Khubar.

In this context Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid praised the major role which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia played particularly in stopping media campaigns between Syria and Egypt on the one hand and between Egypt and Libya on the other. He also praised positive, constructive Saudi efforts in general, especially regarding achieving the desired Arab solidarity and reconciliation as well as clearing the Arab atmosphere and uniting Arab ranks in support of current Arab causes, in particular the Palestinian cause.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid made his statement after his yesterday's meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

He pointed out that his talks with Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal dealt with a clarification of the Arab economic grouping's objectives. [passage omitted]

Answering a question by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Dr 'Abd al-Majid pointed out that until now no Syrian-Egyptian meeting has taken place, and what happened between him and a Syrian official in Paris was nothing more than a handshake on a social occasion. But he added: There are no differences between the Syrian and Egyptian peoples. The differences are only in viewpoints over political issues.

On Libyan-Egyptian relations he pointed out that there were no Libyan-Egyptian meetings other than the Geneva meeting between him and a Libyan official on the sidelines of the General Assembly session there. That meeting dealt with the Egyptian workers' rights owed by Libya.

He pointed out that the Libyan side's position was good and resulted in the meeting held 2 days ago between Libyan and Egyptian officials at the ILO. Dr 'Abd al-Majid welcomed the the Libyan delegation's attendance, which, he said, was their first attendance.

On the opening this week of the land road between Egypt and Libya 'Abd al-Majid said that it is temporary to allow Egyptian teachers working in Libya to spend their holidays at home, indicating that Egyptian airspace was opened previously to eight Libyan airliners carrying Libyan passengers on their way to performing 'umrah [minor hajj].

Meanwhile, Palestinian sources have informed AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the restoration of normal relations between Egypt and Libya is a matter of time, and the efforts exerted to eliminate the remaining obstacles have made good headway in this regard.

And although, when AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT contacted him at his home, the Palestinian state's ambassador in Belgrade Al-Tayyid 'Abd al-Rahim refuted reports that high-level meetings were held between Libyan and Egyptian officials, he pointed out that the meeting held at his home on 20 December last year between the Egyptian and Libyan ambassadors in Belgrade under the sponsorship of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat was within the framework of a meeting called by the Arab ambassadors. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Official Receives Sofaer

NC1502153789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—Ambassador Ibrahim Yusri, director of the Foreign Ministry's Legal Department, has received Abraham Sofaer, the U.S. State Department's legal adviser and head of the U.S. delegation to the Tabah talks.

The two men discussed the progress made in the Tabah talks and the viewpoints of both Egypt and Israel in this respect. [passage omitted]

Sofaer Leaves for Tel Aviv

NC1702050789 Cairo MENA in English 2227 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, Feb 16 (MENA)—U.S. State Department legal advisor Abraham Sofaer left here tonight for Tel Aviv after a ten-day visit to Egypt.

He participated during his visit in talks between proprietors of Israeli tourist facilities in Tabah and the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism.

AL-AHRAM Criticizes U.S. Demands of PLO

NC1602081289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 Feb (MENA)—AL-AHRAM stresses that the PLO has succeeded in foiling the attempt by Israel to drive a wedge between the organization and the United States.

In its editorial today, the paper writes that Israel has again tried to misinterpret the concept of terrorism and has exaggerated the infiltration attempt by Palestinian fedayeen from southern Lebanon to northern Israel, even though the attempt failed and the members of the squad were killed before carrying out any operation. It says that, despite Washington's confirmation of the continuation of the dialogue with the PLO, it has become clear that the U.S. Administration went along with the unilateral Israeli interpretation of terrorism, rebuked the PLO, and warned it against any repetition.

AL-AHRAM notes that the PLO has warned of the new Israeli trap, which is aimed at impeding the negotiations, and has openly declared its stand. This is the rejection of any restrictions on resistance operations, whether in southern Lebanon or in the uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, because these operations are directed against the occupation and take place on its ground, and hence are outside the circle of terrorism.

The paper also notes that the Arab countries have told the United States of their surprise and also their concern at U.S. demands. The Arab countries believe these to be a new condition for continuing the dialogue and an implicit call to the PLO to accept the occupation. They have described these demands as blatant intransigence.

AL-AHRAM adds that Israel is trying to get the conflict back into the former vicious circle, which was broken by the U.S. decision to hold a dialogue with the PLO after the latter's renunciation of terrorism. Israel is doing this by urging its own concept of terrorism and its view of the PLO as a terrorist organization.

Concluding its editorial, the paper warns that the Israeli action is an attempt to exercise moral terrorism over both the U.S. and Palestinian sides in order to raise doubts between them and impede the dialogue.

U.S. Maneuvers With Arab States, Israel Viewed

PM1502123289 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Feb 89 pp 1-2

[Muhammad Nawwar report: "United States Conducted Four Military Maneuvers Over 2 Months in Complete Secrecy"]

[Text] A report by Arab intelligence has revealed that during the 2 months of November and December last year U.S. forces carried out four maneuvers with three Arabs states and Israel.

The report emphasized that over the 2 months of November and December last year U.S. forces conducted three maneuvers with three Arab states: the first at the farthest end of the Arab Maghreb, the second at the farthest end of the [Arab] East, and the third in the heart of Arab Africa. As for the fourth maneuver, it was with the Israeli enemy's navy.

Last November U.S. forces conducted the "African Eagle" maneuver with the Moroccan military forces. The objective was to exploit Morocco's topography and position out of a fear of threats to U.S. forces in the Mediterranean.

Last December U.S. forces conducted three maneuvers: The first was conducted by the U.S. special forces with the Sudanese special forces in the Wadi Sayyidna area. Analysts perceived in this a change in the Sudanese position to ensure the continuation of U.S. military aid. The second was in the Sultanate of Oman between the U.S. Air Force and Omani forces in the Al-Raysut area. The maneuver was called "Bright Lightning". [as published]

The report revealed that Israel opened its territorial waters to the U.S. fleet in the Mediterranean to carry out repair work and naval maneuvers. Joint naval maneuvers were conducted with Israel during the last week of last December.

Tanzania's Mwinyi's Talks With Mubarak, Ghali

NC1402170689 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi at the Presidential Palace this morning. Following a private 1-hour session of talks, the two presidents were joined by the Egyptian and Tanzanian delegations.

Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, commented on the expanded session of talks by saying that the discussions dealt with bilateral relations in the spheres of agriculture and trade, and also with the issue of increasing the number of experts who work in Tanzania. He said that agreement was reached to set up an agricultural project under the supervision of the Egyptian Agriculture Ministry and the Egyptian experts in Tanzania. He noted that the talks also dealt with foreign relations.

Dr Butrus Ghali stated that the two countries are in total agreement on the need to conduct further coordination within the OAU on a number of issues, notably the issue of southern Africa and the need to cooperate further to fight racial discrimination in southern Africa and to assist Namibian independence, which includes the aid that is extended via the OAU's Liberation Committee in Dar es Salaam.

He noted that a decision has been made to hold committee meetings to supervise bilateral Egyptian-Tanzanian coordination with regard to nonaligned policy and to discuss the next Nonaligned Movement summit, which is due to be held in Belgrade in September.

Ghali added that agreement was reached to coordinate further with regard to the African debt issue, on which the two countries are cooperating closely. He pointed out that this issue is of great importance with regard to African economic development.

A joint communique will be issued at the end of the Tanzanian president's visit that will explain the two countries' views on various issues, particularly the Middle East question.

Commenting on President Mubarak's remarks about the fight against racial discrimination, Dr Butrus Ghali announced that Egypt supports the liberation movements which struggle against racial discrimination. He said Egyptian aid for this purpose is extended through the OAU's Liberation Committee.

Dr Butrus Ghali said that President Mubarak has received an invitation from the Tanzanian president to visit Tanzania, which he accepted. The date of visit will be set later, he added.

French Foreign Minister on Peace Efforts

JN1402185589 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 12 Feb 89 p 5

[Interview with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas "before his Middle East tour within the EC's tripartite committee" by Sharif al-Shubashi in Paris—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Shubashi] In January, you held contacts with two main sides concerned with the Middle East issue, namely the Israelis and the Palestinians. What are your impressions of these meetings in Israel and Madrid?

[Dumas] You know that the French and European views on the peace settlement in the Middle East are welcomed in general by the Palestinian side. We support the Palestinian right to self-determination, which should lead, in our opinion, to the establishment of a Palestinian state. There is no problem with us regarding the principle of the establishment of such a state. Regarding the issue of settlement, we support the convening of an international peace conference to be attended by the parties concerned and the five permanent Security Council member states.

France and the other EC countries support the UN General Assembly resolution in Geneva last December—a resolution which has laid down the bases for a peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem. Proceeding from this, the Palestinian side had every reason to welcome the position we adopted in Madrid. [passage omitted]

[Al-Shubashi] How do you assess Egypt's forthcoming role in the peace process?

[Dumas] In France's view, Egypt's role is essential. As a result of Egypt's brave positions, insight, deep desire for peace, the road to a comprehensive peace in the region was opened to regain the Palestinian people's rights in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

[Al-Shubashi] How do you assess the effect of the new facts in the Middle East such as the intifadah [uprising], the termination of the Iraq-Iran war, and the new coalition government in Israel on the peace process?

[Dumas] The intifadah has turned the facts in the Middle East dispute upside down and has proved that it is impossible for the current situation to continue. Day after day, the Palestinian people demonstrate their feelings and determination to end the occupation and regain their right to self-determination.

The intifadah also defined the nature and boundaries of the PLO as well as peace prospects with Israel. Regarding the termination of the Iraq-Iran war, I can say that it restored concentration on the Middle East dispute. I do not know if the policy adopted by the Security Council toward this war can be applied to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The role of the parties concerned with the dispute should be stressed more.

Sidqi Postpones Projects for Lack of Funds

JN1302203089 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 11 Feb 89 p 1

[By Jamal Shawqi]

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has decided to postpone the discussion of 10 giant projects until the end of March. The Ministries of Housing, Electricity, Industry, and Transport had asked the Ministry of Planning to expeditiously arrange the necessary funds for the implementation of these projects, which will cost 3.5 billion Egyptian pounds.

Over the past 6 months, the government has failed in securing the necessary funds for these projects in view of the World Bank's refusal to grant the loans needed for the implementation of these projects, not to mention that the major foreign countries have suspended their loans to Egypt. AL-WAFD has learned that these projects will be included in the 3d year of the current 5-year plan. The government's negotiations with some big countries failed to convince these countries to finance the implementation of these projects.

Libya

OAU's Oumarou Makes Statement, Departs

LD1502103989 Tripoli JANA in English 0815 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nawwar, [February] 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Ide Oumarou secretary-general of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) left Tripoli at noon yesterday after attending the opening session of the ordinary round of the Coordination Committee for the Liberation of Africa (CCLA).

In a statement to JANA's envoy, Ide Oumarou expressed deep relief at Great Jamahiriyah's contribution and embracing of this round which was characterised by a concentrated attendence from many foreign ministers and representatives from OAU member states.

He saluted the struggle of the people of Great Jamahiriyah stressing that the backing and support this great people has been and still, offering to the African liberation movement in support of liberation causes in the whole of Africa. [sentence as received] "The concentrated attendance in this round of session is considered a measure of the interest the whole nations of Africa show in this particular new stage on the road of struggle and liberation represented in the special measures for the independence of Namibia."

Ide Oumarou called on all African peoples to give more backing and support for their African brothers in South Africa who struggle to end the apartheid regime there.

Foreign Liaison Head Meets African Officials

Meets Zaire's Bokai

LD1602050389 Tripoli JANA in English 1420 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nawwar [February] 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the people's committee for foreign liaison met yesterday Mr. B. Bokai, vice-minister of foreign affairs in Zaire.

At this meeting, the two sides stressed the speeding up resuming their relations to normal through opening the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Zaire and the Zairean Embassy in Great al-Jamahiriyah. This comes in implementation of the resolution passed in this regard.

At this meeting the situation was surveyed in relation to South Africa and especially in Namibia, apart from discussing the ways conducive to unifying the efforts of Africa to achieve freedom and independence to this continent.

Meets Ghana's Foreign Minister

LD1602092389 Tripoli JANA in English 1425 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nawwar [February] 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison met yesterday Mr. Obed Asamoah, the foreign minister of Ghana.

At this meeting, the two sides surveyed the existing relations between the two friendly countries and ways for promoting them in various spheres in a manner serving the interests of the two friendly peoples. They, at this meeting, agreed on convening the meeting of the joint Libyan Arab-Ghana committee for cooperation during next Al-Tayr [April] month.

The viewpoints were identical between the two friendly countries on the necessity of unified African action to face up to the maneuvers of the racist apartheid regime in South Africa.

Sees Angolan Counterpart

LD1502101589 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Tripoli, 15 Feb (JANA)—The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison conferrred yesterday at noon with Venancio da Silva Moura, Angolan deputy minister of foreign affairs.

The Angolan deputy foreign minister handed the brother secretary a written message for the brother leader of the revolution from President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola. During the meeting they also reviewed bilateral relations and the situation in the south of Africa.

Cooperation Protocol Signed With Liberia

LD1602142889 Tripoli JANA in English 0805 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nawwar [February] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Signing took place yesterday morning on a protocol to consolidate bilateral cooperation between Great Jamahiriyah and Liberia in all fields to achieve the accomplishment of projects and to support the joint ventures between the two countries.

The protocol was signed by the secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Bureau and Liberia's foreign minister who took part in the meetings of the Coordination Committee for the Liberation of Africa.

The protocol stressed upon the importance of promoting bilateral contacts and cooperation in the field of joint investment and promoting bilateral capabilities to enable them to expand their activities in serving bilateral cooperation.

Cultural Agreement Signed With Poland

LD1502104989 Tripoli JANA in English 0818 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nawwar 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—On Monday morning in Tripoli signing took place on an executive programme for an agreement of cultural, informational and scientific cooperation between Great Jamahiriyah and the People's Republic of Poland for 1989-1991.

Ambassador "Stanislaw Kukuryka" of the People's Republic of Poland to Great Jamahiriyah signed the agreement with the secretary of the People's Committee for Information and Culture in Tripoli municipality.

The agreement includes exchange of delegations in the fields of press, information, printing, TV and radio and the holding of cultural weeks, joint production and cooperation in the field of informational training and exchanging programmes in the fields of music, theatre, contemporary arts and other means of contacts and mass education.

Bahrain

UK's Waldegrave Holds Manama News Conference

JN1602202089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1850 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Manama, 16 Feb (WAKH)—William Waldegrave, British minister of state for foreign affairs, announced that his talks with Bahraini officials today dealt with the strong bilateral relations and the situation in the Gulf since the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran. He said at a press conference in Manama this evening that his talks with Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister, dealt with regional issues in detail as well as developments in the wake of the GCC summit in Manama last December.

The British minister of state for foreign affairs described his talks as positive and constructive. He added that he discussed the existing bilateral relations, ways to reinforce them in various fields, the situation in the Arabian Gulf in the wake of the cease-fire in the Iraq-Iran war, the prevalence of security and stability in the region, and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Waldegrave noted that his regional tour aims at creating strong relations with the GCC states, affirming the need to preserve the collective agreement of the GCC states with regard to their future work.

The British minister welcomed the announcement on the launching of the Arab Cooperation Council in Baghdad today. He noted that this Arab grouping shows the action which the Arab states must embark on.

Waldegrave announced that a European team will visit the region to hold talks with the GCC states' officials on the current situation. He said that the Bahraini foreign minister voiced support for his views on the Arab-Israeli conflict and that there are opportunities that should be exploited to achieve peace in the region.

The British minister praised the formation of the Joint Gulf force of the GCC states and their cooperation in this field and described it as a step in the right direction. He expressed his country's readiness to contribute to the training of this force.

Waldegrave said that his country's naval force in the Gulf will soon return to Europe at the conclusion of its mission. However, he added that Britain will return the force in a new mission if it is asked to do so.

On the developments in the Palestine question, Waldegrave said that the next few months are important with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict. He added that this opportunity should not be wasted because the recent announcement by the PLO has provided a big opportunity. Waldegrave said that nobody can stop the 15-month-old Palestinian intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories. He affirmed that this intifadah is an expression of the rejection of the laws imposed by external forces.

On the British stand with regard to holding a dialogue with the PLO, Waldegrave said that Britain has held talks with the PLO. He added that Britain, like the Arab countries, including the GCC states, urged former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to begin a dialogue with the PLO.

Departs for London 17 Feb

JN1702074689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0630 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Manama, 17 Feb (WAKH)—William Waldegrave, British minister of state for foreign affairs, and the accompanying delegation left Manama for London this morning following a 2-day visit to Bahrain as part of a regional tour.

During his visit, Waldegrave held talks with senior Bahraini officials on bilateral relations and ways to enhance them in various fields, particularly in the economic, trade, and educational fields as well as the current situation in the Arabian Gulf following the end of the Iraq-Iran war and the restoration of security and stability in the region.

The talks also dealt with issues of interest to the GCC states in light of the ninth GCC summit held in Bahrain in December. They reviewed the Middle East issue, the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories, the holding of an international peace conference and the Palestinian-European dialogue following the proclamation of the Palestinian state.

In addition, the talks dealt with the dialogue between the GCC states and the EC, the Lebanese problem, and other Arab and international issues.

Kuwait

Foreign Ministry Official on Rushdie, Arab Issues

LD1602135589 Kuwait KUNA in English 1142 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 16 (KUNA)—Kuwait has voiced support to any step towards unifying Arab countries and consolidating joint Arab action.

Foreign Ministry's under secretary Sulayman al-Shahin told a group of foreign journalists who are visiting Kuwait on the occasion of the 28th anniversary of its national day that Kuwait supports the unity of the grand Arab Maghreb which comprises Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Libya and Mauritania.

Shahin said Kuwait is waiting for details on the establishment of the Arab cooperation council grouping Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and Yemen Arab Republic, due to be declared in Baghdad later today.

He said the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) had received recognition and support from sisterly Arab countries. He indicated that the role of axes had passed and that other countries should not regard the establishment of those gatherings as axes against them.

Shahin expressed hope that the position of the Arab League was better than it is now with the presence of Egypt because, he said, the presence of Egypt would have sufficed the Arabs from establishing other groupings.

He was hopeful that the three Arab gatherings would join forces to realize comprehensive Arab unity.

On relations between the GCC member states and Iran, Shahin said progress of these relations depends on the progress of Iraq-Iran peace negotiations.

He said Kuwaiti-Iranian relations were progressing normally in the political and diplopmatic domains, saying the two countries' embassies were open "and we exchange views and conduct consultations on some matters."

He indicated that Iran had shown response towards improving relations with Saudi Arabia and the rest of the GCC member states adding that normalization of relations between Iraq and Iran will boost security and stability in the region.

He said the GCC supports the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and pays due concern to good neighbouring relations with other countries.

Shahin affirmed keenness to establish lasting and comprehensive peace in the region pointing out to the existing favourable international atmosphere particularly between the Soviet Union and the United States.

He noted that the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Sabah's recent visit to Iraq was successful and fruitful during which Iraq agreed to provide Kuwait with 500 million gallons of irrigation water and 150 million of drinking water daily. He said the two sides also agreed to boost cooperation in the fields of trade, economy, investment and joint ventures.

He highlighted the positive atmosphere and the good results reached by the Arab League's committee on the Lebanese question which is chaired by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

The Foreign Ministry undersecretary stressed the importance of holding the international peace conference on the Middle East pledging Kuwait's and other Arab countries support to the conference.

He said the international atmosphere is conducive to hold the conference and come out with resolutions that will maintain the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and achieve just, lasting and comprehensive peace.

Regarding the question of Afghanistan, Shahin said Kuwait, in its capacity as current chairman of the Organization of Islamic Conference, and in collaboration with sisterly Islamic countries are seeking a just solution to the Afghan problem.

He said Kuwait had made contacts with the Soviet officials and the Afghan mujahidin with the aim of reaching a genuine peace agreement that will maintain Afghanistan's independence and satisfy all the Afghan people. He expressed hope that the Afghan people would reach agreement among themselves without foreign interference.

He described the Non-Aligned Movement as "a good umbrella to realize the dreams of the Third World countries and stand between the two super blocs." He said Kuwait as a small country regards the movement as a major factor for uniting the Third World.

Shahin noted that Kuwait maintains cordial relations with a number of world countries in the Eastern bloc, the West, the Islamic world and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Asked on a reported call by Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to hold an emergency OIC conference to consider a novel by Salman Rushdie "Satanic Verses", Shahin said Kuwait had not received any official thing in this connection.

However, speaking his own mind Shahin said the issue does not deserve all this row. He was of the opinion that bringing up discussion of the issue to this level "may serve as publicity for the book and realize profit to the writer and the publisher."

"There have been a number of books hostile to Islam but I don't believe that those were able to affect our holy religion or distort its image," Shahin said.

Shahin wished Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto every success, saying her assumption of that leading post was capable of pushing forward the feminist movement in the Orient.

Saddam Husayn on Border Issue, Israeli Threat
JN1602184589 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 15 Feb 89 p 5

["Text" of interview with President Saddam Husayn by Kuwaiti editors in chief who accompanied Kuwaiti Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah to Iraq—date not given]

[Text] Question: Do you at present have any intentions and plans towards introducing multi-party system, public freedoms and an open society?

Answer: Such developments rarely take place within victorious countries. Rather they are a familiar sight after a failure or a catastrophe. I believe that the slogans of democracy and its consolidation in society manifest themselves only after experiencing failures on the political, economic or social policies.To consolidate and strengthen democracy after succeeding in all these aspects is a totally different affair. We in Iraq consider ourselves successful—particularly in our economic policy which is clear and comprehensive. It has been in implementation in a very expanded manner for the last three years. We have been successful and have no problems. Had we delayed the implemntation of the new economic policy we would have been in a difficult situation now due to the drop in oil prices and the drop in the value of the US dollar.

We had started well planned steps for the state and the peop... two years before the war actually ended. Plans had been prepared four or five years ago which include the reconstruction of Basra. The difference between the West and the Third World is that in the latter, hidden things are much more important than matters which are publicised. In the West it is the contrary. Thus, in the West, even the military commanders have a more comprehensive outlook of their society than commanders here. Because of this, big surprises may result here and devils may play in the dark. Clearness and openness will lead to facts that all people can agree on.

Thus, when there is true democracy people can frankly express their opinions on their particular condidates—inefficient candidates will not succeed. In this respect, I must warn that blind imitation of the West by forgetting the stages of their democratic development in countries like France, Britain or Italy, will certainly lead to the destruction of our countries. A hated dictatorship may be the result of such a situation of chaos. By keeping this in mind, the main essence and meaning of democracy must be applied and there is no way out for us from this. We, as the Iraqi leadership, have in depth discussed ways to strengthen and consolidate the implementation of democracy, particularly the multi-party system. The first session found a majority of the leadership of disagreement with the multi-party system.

But I announced that we have adopted the multi-party system because I realised that the party needed renewal in its blood and movement. In fact, I in 1982 told my colleagues of this line of thinking. In 1979, we had even decided to hold presidential elections. In 1982, I told my colleagues that after the war ends, we should adopt the multi-party system and expand the democratic practices by using advanced formulas. I affirm here that what we plan to do is apply new advanced formulas to democracy. We have democracy in the elections of trade unions and other professional bodies, nominations and election to the national and legislative councils. Our party even considers elections as cancelled if only one candidate stands for election.

Q: As a victorious country, you are still causing fear and this fact is evident from various statements issued by various people?

A: We are a type of people who never exaggerate their capabilities and strength. Moreover we are reluctant to use force wherever this is avoidable. These statements are not strange if they come from our enemies who will look into our force as an added power to the Arab nation against their enemies. The Arab nation including Iraq, is a nation of peace and thus looks to its force in a civilised way. Those who think otherwise are dreaming.

Q: It is perhaps a healthy attitude to differ with our colleague, Ahmad al-Jarallah (who asked the previous question) and see that Iraq should be feared by the enemies and should be a support to the arab nation and thus its victory will frighten only the enemies of Arabs.

A: Ahmad means something else as I undestand from his question. But after the victory of Faw, I felt that the aid of some brothers to Iraq greaty shrunk. Without meeting with the highest authorities in those countries I cannot give an explanation. Traditionally, I straight away go to the concerned brother and ask him for an explanation. Some foreigners, Arabs, and Iraqis now state that our brothers were helping us within the framework of the security of the region and not as a principled expression of Arab nationalism. They wanted to stop the aid in order not to help the Iraqi victory become an additional strength for the Iraqis. I do not concur with this opinion because I understand that in all cases, Iraq is a support to all its brothers. Thus if some good things happen to Iraq it will be for all Arabs and vice versa.

Q: The official peace procedures like signing an agreement have not taken place till now?

A: Was a peace agreement signed between Moscow and Japan after the war? No it wasn't. But peace prevails between the two countries since the end of World War II. Thus, peace could be achieved with or without an agreement. For us, we prefer peace with agreement. While we call for this, we take it that peace is achieved on a durable basis. For example, today I chaired a meeting

in Basra and it concentrated upon achieving the beautification of Basra. All divisions and brigades of the Army are taking part in the reconstruction of Basra.

Q: Israel is probably planning an operation against Iraq. Additionally for the last 45 years Arabs did not practise democracy and thus allowed their enemies to distort their reputation. I think that democracy is a power we have not yet used against Israel?

A: I agree with you on the issue of democracy and we in Iraq are planning to implement better forms of democracy. Iraq has been practising some forms of democracy, but we have not succeeded in showing it. The National Council began its elections in 1980 and despite the eruption of the war in September, the Council continued and even the law of the Council was improved. The law contains clasues that are rarely present in any the Third World parliaments. It is understood that the collective stand is better than standing alone. Unfortunately, we have not yet used this against Israel. But, it should be noticed that the Arabs at present are more mature than they were 10 to 20 years ago.

A direct aggression from Israel is expected. Israel could also instigate Iran to resume the war. But it should be realised that the world at present is not governed by a single will. The international reaction besides those in the region and Iraq's capability will certainly halt Israel from doing what it wishes. Israel realises this and can expect Iraq's reaction towards any aggression.

Q: Could you please elucidate on the pact between Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen?

A: I cannot tell you about a pact which has not been concluded yet. But I think any grouping of Arab countries will be positive. For the time being, I cannot talk unilaterally about a case which just represents the reaction of four wills. In my modest opinion Arabs should handle these issues carefully. Attitudes should be based on sound convictions. It would be important for Arabs to start a dialogue either through the Arab League or through Arab summits. Dialogue for me is better than resolutions. I ask why do not the Arab leaders start a real dialogue? Are they unable to do so or are they waiting for more convenient circumstances? Dialogue based on frankness is a healthy phenemenon. Any friend who does not tell me my negative aspects I would consider him to be an enemy.

Q: Has denationalisation of some of the public sector installations in Iraq been successful? What about the contribution of the Arab capital in the investment field in Iraq?

A: The private sector in Iraq coincided with the public sector since 1968. Their role has been tangible in agriculture, industrial services and other different sectors—except education. In the past the state was administering different sectors. Now the role of the private sector has been enhanced. No tax will be imposed on the private sector for the next 10 years. We as a government have decided to be involved only in some specific industries which match the state's capabilities. We deem Arab investments in Iraq as a nationalistic attitude rather than technical. The relevant law relating to Arab investment in Iraq had been enacted when Iraq had tens of billion of dollars in its Central Bank. The law was amended and necessary regulations to encourage Arab investors, were added. The problem to be discussed is how to remit profits abroad in hard currency. Once this problem is solved, Arab capitals will flow as investment fields will be opened to all and investors will make big profits particularly in the industrial, agricultural and touristic fields.

The delay in the flow of Arab capital to Iraq is attributed to two factors. First Arab investors were not sure about peace between Iraq and Iran. Secondly, limitations on foreign exchange remittances. This problem will soon be solved.

Q: Could you give us your evaluation of Shaykh Sa'd's visit to Iraq?

A: I think that both Iraqis and Kuwaitis in the past were used to talks in general terms. Shaykh Sa'd's visit covered specifics in details. Both sides have identical thoughts over the issues discussed. I believe that everything has become clear now and hopefully we will settle the issue because we feel that it is a burden on our shoulders much more than it is on yours. We wanted you to be sure that we desire to get rid of this burden. Another aspect of the talks was that both sides thought that the key to the issue was in the hands of both—not in the hands of either Iraq or Kuwait alone. Personally, I am very satisfied with Shaykh Sa'd's visit and I believe Shaykh Sa'd also came away from his meetings in Iraq completely satisfied with the outcome of his dicussions.

Q: Will the peace stage be more difficult than war?

A: It is not more difficult. It will be easier because we built the institutions and infrastructure of the state from 1968 to 1980. The war brings big economic losses, sacrifices and bloodshed. Peace is easier than war. Peace is a natural way of life.

Q: The war usually suspends problems, but after the war they come to surface again.

A: No. We did not suspend any activities except those which were beyond our financial abilities. We did not suspend the dialogue. There are very limited issues that were suspended because of the war. Even arts and poetry developed during the war.

Arens Interviewed on Prospects for Peace
PM1602152089 London ITV Network in English 1900 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Channel 4 News announcer Peter Sissons in London on 15 February, monitored in progress in the framework of the Channel 4 News program—recorded]

[Text] [Sissons] Well, Mr Arens is with us now in the studio. What are you doing to take advantage of the new opportunities that have opened up?

[Arens] I don't know that new opportunities have opened up, but I think the circumstances are such that a renewed effort is needed to see if we can breathe some life into the peace process, get negotiations going. You know, Israel has been ready for peace throughout the years of its existence, has had to fight five wars just to survive. It took 30 years for Egypt to come to the peace table—30 years and five wars—and we haven't had any progress since. So, we will take some initiatives.

We have a new government (Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East); it took some time before they put the government together. We are now in the process of deliberations, also contact with foreign leaders like Mrs Thatcher, and I expect that our prime minister will come up with an initiative that hopefully will be successful.

[Sissons] And who are you going to negotiate with?

[Arens] Well, that's the big question in the Middle East. Who are the interlocutors? There are some countries that seem to have no interest in making peace with Israel or negotiating with Israel.

[Sissons] The PLO is interested in making peace with Israel.

[Arens] Well, I wouldn't be so sure of that. You know, the PLO is the arch-terrorist organization in the world...

[Sissons, interrupting] They've renounced terrorism.

[Arens] Well, they've renounced it, and they're still practicing it. We have intercepted a terrorist gang just last week...

[Sissons, interrupting] That's not one of 'Arafat's gangs.

[Arens] Yes, it is one of 'Arafat's gang. 'Arafat said—or 'Arafat's people said—that they were on a military mission. It wasn't a terrorist mission, but a military mission.

[Sissons] There are those who believe it actually is a group not associated directly with Mr 'Arafat.

[Arens] No, no, associated directly with the PLO, and the PLO took responsibility and said this was a military action and not a terrorist action. But far more serious, the PLO threatens the lives of Palestinian Arabs in the West Bank and in Gaza. Anybody who doesn't toe the line is threatened, is firebombed: Four people were killed in the first two weeks of the month of January. Anybody who spoke up has been told by Mr 'Arafat personally; he said:

I will put 10 bullets in the chest of anybody who talks about ending the intifadah [uprising]. So terrorism is continuing, and this is one of the major problems that faces the area. I discussed that with Mrs Thatcher today, that this kind of intimidation, of course, makes it very difficult for people to come forward and negotiate.

[Sissons] Do you not accept that people can turn from terrorism to peaceful politics?

[Arens] Well, I'd say in theory it's possible...

[Sissons, interrupting] The world is full of people who've done that.

[Arens] ...in theory it's probably not impossible, but when you look at a group of people who have perpetrated the worst atrocities the world has seen since World War II...

[Sissons] Oh, there are other groups who have done, who have carried out terrorist atrocities. I mean, you can't lay them all at the door of the PLO.

[Arens] I'm not laying them all at the door of the PLO, but I think the PLO is recognized to be the top terrorist organization. Hijacking aircraft was invented by them, blowing up commercial airliners in midair—that was invented by them.

[Sissons] But they've renounced that. They say they're not going to do that anymore. Why not give peace a chance?

[Arens] Well, as I said to you a moment ago, they are still practicing terrorism. They're sitting out there in Tunis. They do not come from the towns and villages of the West Bank and Gaza. They talk about the right of return to Israel proper, to the cities and villages of Israel. They're not talking about peace.

[Sissons] But surely, say 6 months in Geneva with the PLO would show you whether they were interested in peace or not.

[Arens] Well, you don't have to sit in Geneva. You can sit right here in London or you can sit in Jerusalem and see if they're continuing to terrorize the population, if they continue to carry out terrorist acts: At the present time they do.

[Sissons] Let me put to you what a cabinet colleague of yours, Mr 'Ezer Weizman, wrote in one of our prominent newspapers here yesterday: The PLO is the only organization that could have, might have, I hope has authority on a solution between us and them.

[Arens] And you would like me to respond to that...

[Sissons, interrupting] Yes.

[Arens] And he also extended some compliments to me personally in that article, which you may have noticed...

[Sissons, interrupting] Well, he...

[Arens, interrupting] ...He called me a fascist or a near fascist, a...

[Sissons] ...a square head on the borderline of fascism.

[Arens, interrupting] ...borderline of fascism. I think that tells you something about the credibility of the man.

[Sissons] But he has a point, doesn't he? He says, when people say the PLO wants to destroy Israel, he says, he wets himself with laughter. They can cause problems, he says. They are a nuisance. But anyone who throws bricks and bottles at you does it because he has no F-16's and no tanks. You're talking as if they want to destroy you. They've got nothing to destroy you with.

[Arens] You know, the day I left Israel, yesterday morning, at the airport before I got on the plane, a gentleman came to see me, and it turned out to be it was the man who had driven his car a few months ago, and it was firebombed. His wife was killed, his youngest daughter was killed, his two other children heavily burned, he himself disfigured. And the reason he came to me was because a week ago, at the same spot, a car was firebombed, the occupant of the car burned alive; and he said to me: How much longer is this going to go on? So I think you want to look at it from the point of view of the victim, and then it doesn't seem that innocent at all.

[Sissons] All right. Are you saying, then, never, ever will you talk to this organization?

[Arens] No. I'm saying that Israel should talk and find ways of talking...

[Sissons, interrupting] To the PLO?

[Arens] Just one moment...

[Sissons] Go ahead.

[Arens] ...to those countries who are at war with Israel: that's Syria; that's Iraq; that's Lebanon; that's Jordan; that's Saudi Arabia; to the Palestinian population in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. The Palestinian population in the West Bank, by the way, are all Jordanian citizens. If it should turn out that King Husayn is not ready to talk with them, then we should find, must find—I think, eventually, will find—interlocutors, authentic representatives in the area. Hopefully, the PLO is not going to shoot them. The most prominent Palestinian in the area was the former mayor of Nabulus, Zafir al-Masri. He was shot down in the street by the PLO.

[Sissons] What about having a referendum in Israel on whether to talk to the PLO?

[Arens] We just had a referendum. You know, Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East, and we just had elections. And the party that I represent won the elections.

[Sissons] Well, you haven't ruled out talking to the PLO. You're not one of these politicians who says: Never, ever.

[Arens] No, I'm saying to you who it is we should be talking to with a chance of arriving at peace, and it's not with the chief terrorist organization. It's with Jordan. It's with the representatives of the Palestinian population in the area itself. It's with the other Arab countries, when and if they are ready to come forward and talk to us. Right now, they're not.

[Sissons] And what about the other principal proposition that your politicians in your own cabinet hold dear—the notion of land for peace. Are you saying that never, ever will land be negotiated for peace?

[Arens] Well, I remind you that Israel signed the only peace agreement we have so far—the one with Egypt—paying a tremendous price, by the way, in land: all of the Sinai, the oil wells, installations that we had there. We had to remove Israelis living in the area. We paid that price, and we made peace with Egypt.

I think there is no need to, and it is not helpful at all, to discuss or to try to get Israel to say before the negotiations ever start just what our positions are going to be and what the outcome of the negotiations are going to be. That's what negotiations are all about. Everybody comes forward without preconditions.

[Sissons] So when are we going to get these negotiations? You talk about them, actually, as if they may be just around the corner.

[Arens] Well, the peace process in the Middle East moves at a glacial pace, and it's not our fault.

[Sissons] Well, you voted against Camp David...

[Arens, interrupting] Well...

[Sissons] ...is it safe in your hands?

[Arens] Is Camp David safe in my hands?

[Sissons] No, is the peace process safe in the hands of a man who voted against Camp David?

[Arens] Well, I don't at all feel guilty for having voted against it because, you know, when you sign a peace agreement the subject under discussion are the conditions of the agreement. I thought the condition that required Israelis to be moved, to be transferred out of the area were conditions that were not consistent with peace. And I'd say that again. I don't think that you have to move people around when you make peace. People can stay where they are.

But once the agreement has been signed—you know that in Britain, in a democratic country—that agreement commits everybody: Whether you voted for it, whether you voted against it, whether you thought the conditions were right or not, you're committed to it. This is the building block today on which we have to build the superstructure of peace agreements with the other countries in the area.

[Sissons] Mr Arens, thank you very much for coming in.

Arens Returns From London

TA1702080389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens returned from London this morning. The ITIM correspondent reports that Minister Arens left the airport straight from the tarmac without entering the terminal and without making any statement.

It was reported last night that the foreign minister will confer with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on 13 March. Arens initially asked to meet with Baker in London, but the U.S. secretary of state said it was not suitable for him.

Further on Meetings With Palestinian Leaders

MKs Meet With Al-Husayni

TA1602205089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] The meeting between Knesset Members Amnon Rubinstein, Avraham Poraz, and Avraham Burg with Faysal al-Husayni ended a few minutes ago. Upon leaving the meeting, Al-Husayni expressed doubts on the possibility of holding democratic elections in the territories. He said, however, that he saw a positive change in the attitude of the Israeli public toward the issue of the Palestinian problem. This is reported by our correspondent 'Ido Shargil.

Journalist on Meetings

JN1602210989 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Interview with Ziyad Abu Zayyad, journalist and lawyer, by Ibrahim Shahid; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Shahid] Journalist Ziyad Abu Zayyad: Recently you were one of the persons who participated in the Israeli-Palestinian meetings. Will you please first tell us about the nature of these meetings from your viewpoint?

[Abu Zayyad] Personally, I have met many times, on many occasions, and at different levels with the Israelis. The two meetings that took place this week were not an important or extraordinary event. They were similar to other meetings with the Israelis.

We as Palestinians are concerned with addressing the Israeli public and society and the Israelis in general in order to confirm to them a clear and firm fact: that the Palestinian peace initiative approved during the recent PNC session is a serious and real one and not a maneuver or tactical move. On the basis of this, the purpose of any meeting with Israelis is to convince them of the seriousness of this Palestinian initiative.

[Shahid] Who takes the initiative for this kind of meetings?

[Abu Zayyad] We take the initiative for some, and if the opportunity is offered or if we were invited to others, we do not hesitate in going and talking.

[Shahid] How do you explain these meetings among you as Palestinian persons and Israelis from the official aspects?

[Abu Zayyad] True, the Israelis who took part in yesterday's meetings included Yosi Beilin, Israeli deputy finance minister, but he attended in his capacity as leader of the Moshav Bloc at the Israeli Labor Party, and not in his capacity as part of the Israeli Government. He personally asserted this.

[Shahid] Previous meetings between Palestinians in Jerusalem, the West Bank, or Gaza were planned with Israelis or foreign sides that visit the region. These meetings were either canceled or postponed, and it used to be said that the PLO leadership abroad disapproves of these meetings. Do you have a green light for such meetings?

[Abu Zayyad] I personally have never participated in any work for a meeting that took place or that was canceled because of the approval or disapproval of the PLO. I personally know that the general trend on the inside is toward presenting a Palestinian viewpoint and informing the Israelis of this viewpoint.

As for the green light, I do not believe there are green or red lights from the PLO. Here, we act at our own initiative as Palestinians who are concerned with pushing forward their cause and contributing toward achieving their people's aspirations.

[Shahid] Ziyad Abu Zayyad, following these recent Palestinian-Israeli meetings, Knesset Member 'Uzi Landau, from the Likud, commented and rejected them vehemently. He cited one of the PLO leaders, Salah Khalaf—Abu Iyad—as saying that, from these meetings, the PLO aims to create a rift and division in Israeli society.

[Abu Zayyad] We do not think about driving a wedge inside Israeli society. We try to talk to the Israelis and convince them of our sincere intentions about peace. If this act is going to create a division inside the Israeli society, or a division between the leftists and rightists, we do not plan to create this division because our aim is not to create this division. Our aim is to mass general Israeli support for the idea of negotiating with the PLO and recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

[Shahid] Thank you, journalist Ziyad Abu Zayyad.

[Abu Zayyad] You are welcome.

Meetings To Allay 'Fears'

TA1602130089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] On the Arab side, the participants in the meeting with Labor Party members included journalist and publicist Ziyad Abu Zayyad, who said that their aim in these talks was to allay Israeli fears and lay the groundwork for ultimate negotiations.

[Begin Abu Zayyad recording] We know that Israel was established as a Jewish state, and we know that the return of all the Palestinian people who left Palestine in 1948, the return of all of them to Palestine will make Israel lose its Jewish character. We know this fact, and we'll not say to the Israelis: Lose your Jewish character and become a binational state. However, there were resolutions of the United Nations that speak about a return or compensation. This right will be negotiated, what is possible to do regarding it. [end recording]

Meetings Expose 'Rifts'

TA1702080789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Feb 89 pp 1, 18

[Report by Dan Petreanu and Menahem Shalev]

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office stated last night that the "useless and unauthorized" meetings between Israeli politicians and PLO supporters such as Faysal al-Husayni serve to "encourage PLO terrorism."

The statement came as the circle of political figures meeting with Al-Husayni widened.

The Palestinian activist held his third round of talks this week when he met with Shinuy Centre leaders Amnon Rubinstein and Avraham Poraz in Jerusalem late last night.

During the two previous nights, Al-Husayni and other Palestinians met with Labour's Yosi Beilin, Hayim Ramon and Avraham Burg, as well as MAPAM's Ya'ir Tzaban.

Observers agreed that the meetings exposed embarrassing rifts between the Labour Party and the Likud, and within Labour itself.

While Prime Minister Shamir blasted the talks, Vice Premier Peres said he supported them. Much of the strongest criticism of the talks came yesterday from members of the Labour Party who felt that the participants were not authorized to involve themselves in security-related affairs and might be harming the party electorally.

Likud sources told THE JERUSALEM POST that the talks "provide further evidence of Labour's slide towards the left fringe." They charged that Peres and the rest of Labour's leadership were being "dragged along" by the dovish group led by Yosi Beilin, "who has exchanged roles with his former mentor (Peres)."

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 17 February carries a similar report in which Mr Peres, asked for his response to the Likud charge that there is a swing to the left in the Labor Party, says: "I suggest to the Likud people to watch themselves not to swing too much to the right, and then they will fulfill their duties."]

A spokesman for the prime minister said: "These night meetings won't lead to anything. Only the government should decide who should meet whom, when and where. The meetings only create false expectations that the interlocutors really represent authorized bodies."

The spokesman, who declined to be identified, added that Al-Husayni, Sari Nusaybah, Ziyad Abu Zayyad and the other Palestinians at the meetings are "linked to the PLO, linked to the terror organizations ... are part and parcel of the PLO facade which, just like 'Arafat's speech in Geneva, is meant to present a false picture of a supposedly respectable PLO which has abandoned terror."

Nonetheless, the spokesman said Shamir will not recommend that any action be taken against the politicians who met with Al-Husayni.

Communications Minister Gad Ya'aqobi told THE JERUSALEM POST that "most Labour Party ministers are not fundamentally opposed to the talks.

"Our platform favours talks with any Palestinian who recognizes Israel," Ya'aqobi continued. "There's no other way to examine the possibilities towards negotiations than to talk to Palestinians here, even if they are associated with the PLO."

Science Minister 'Ezer Weizman said he strongly approved of the meetings and recommended that "we meet directly with these persons' superiors (the PLO)."

But others in the Labour Party expressed strong opposition to the contacts. MK [Knesset Member] Mikha Goldman—who is close to Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin—charged that "they harmed the possibility of achieving consensus around the Rabin plan."

Goldman added that the meetings could "cause Labour electoral damage. We've lost a lot of public support in recent years as a result of moving left."

MK Shoshana Arbeli-Almozlino said: "I don't understand how people decide for themselves to meet this or that person." She charged that the participants in the talks were "setting themselves apart from the party," and demanded that the party's forums convene to discuss the matter.

The talks were roundly condemned by many in the Likud. MK Binyamin Begin termed them "irresponsible" and asserted that they "contribute to PLO efforts in the international arena"—since, in his view, international public opinion does not differentiate between PLO supporters in the territories and the PLO itself.

Last night's meeting—held in the Jerusalem home of Moshe 'Amirav, the Shinuy-Centre member who was expelled from the Likud in 1987 for contacts with Al-Husayni and other Palestinians—was also to have been attended by reserve generals Aharon Yariv and Shlomo Gazit. But the two changed their minds yesterday afternoon, when word of the meeting leaked to the media.

Yariv said that, although he was "very interested" in meeting with Al-Husayni, "such meetings should be held quietly—away from the floodlights."

Al-Husayni said after last night's meeting that it was the result of an invitation he had received to visit 'Amirav at home a year ago, and had been planned some time in advance.

The initiative for his meetings with Israelis this week came from the Israeli side, Al-Husayni said, adding that Palestinians have for some time been interested in such discussions.

Al-Husayni and other Palestinians involved in the contacts said the discussions were an attempt to present the Palestinian position to broader segments of Israeli public opinion, and to nudge Israelis toward talks with the PLO.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 17 February reports that "Al-Husayni told reporters the PLO favors any meeting at which its point of view is clarified, but he rejected the suggestion that he was being groomed as an alternative leader for the Palestinians in the territories." Al-Husayni says: "I would like to ask you all, all the journalists here, all the media, from inside, from outside, to understand it another time that there is an illusion which you must understand that it is just an illusion that there will be any alternative leadership here from inside. From inside we have the Unified Leadership. This is the leadership here, and it is part of the PLO, so the PLO is the leadership for the Palestinian people. Another time this, again, I ask you all to stop it and not to go on asking such questions because for the 100th time I am telling you that here we the Palestinians we can give you hundreds of Nelson Mandelas but no Quisling one. Not one Quisling."]

Rubinstein proposed elections in the territories but ruled out Al-Husayni's request for international inspection of those elections. Al-Husayni presented the argument that the PLO had truly abandoned terrorism.

Rubinstein termed the meeting a "confidence-building measure—every such meeting takes us a few small steps forward." Rubinstein said that he was encouraged by Al-Husayni's "readiness to accept Israel, forget about history—meaning the dream of returning to Yafo and 'Akko and create an economic union."

'Amirav termed the meeting "very useful and friendly" and said that "both sides emerged satisfied." He said he intended to arrange "many more such meetings in the future until they become routine. [no closing quotation marks as published]

He predicted that "within several months...Shamir himself will talk to the PLO," because he will talk to Al-Husayni and "Al-Husayni is the PLO."

[In a report from Jerusalem by Jeremy Kaplan on pages 1 and 2, Tel Aviv THE NATION in English on 17 February reports that "Hanna Sinyurah, editor of the pro-PLO AL-FAJR newspaper, said the contacts 'are a healthy indication of changes in both camps.' A broad cross-section of the Palestinians are participating in the contacts, he said, including representatives from Nayif Hawatimah's extremist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. 'After some more sessions like this, gradually they will become normalized—they won't be such a news item,' he said. 'They will become a permanent feature'."]

PLO 'Authorized' Meetings

TA1702121189 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Feb 89 pp A1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef and Ilan Bakhar]

[Excerpt] In coordination with the PLO leadership, the organization's supporters in the territories have set up a representation to conduct talks with Israel. This forms part of the PLO's propaganda campaign directed at the Israeli public.

The authorized representation, which includes representatives of Nayif Hawatimah's DFLP and the Palestinian Communist Party, first emerged in the meeting 2 days ago with Deputy Finance Minister Yosi Beilin; Nimrod Novik, Peres' political adviser; and Dr Efrayim Sene, the former head of the Civil Administration.

Fatah, led by Faysal al-Husayni, enjoys a vast majority in the representation, whose composition was coordinated with PLO leaders abroad. It includes Dr Sari Nusaybah; Ziyad Abu Ziyad; Dr Mamduh al-'Akar, a Nabulus physician; Dr Hanan Mikha'il [name as published], a Bi'r Zayt University lecturer; and Dr Khalil Muhashi. All of them are Fatah supporters in the territories. Also in it are Dr Sam'an Khuri, a DFLP supporter, and Dr Ghassan al-Khatib, a major Palestinian Communist Party activist.

No representatives from George Habash's PFLP were included in the representation. It has been learned, however, that the meeting with Alignment leaders 2 days ago was held following prior coordination with PFLP activists in the territories. The Palestinian representation does not include even a single Hamas (the fundamental Islamic Resistance Movement) member, as it is engaged in an open battle with the PLO. [passage omitted]

Paper Criticizes Meetings

TA1702160589 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 17 Feb 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Whom To Talk to?"]

[Text] The run gone amok by Yosi Beilin, Hayim Ramon, and other Alignment members in the direction of the PLO invalidates the basis of Israel's overseas information campaign against a dialogue with 'Arafat and the PLO.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens cannot very well urge British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to call off the contacts with the PLO when at approximately the same time a deputy minister in the Israeli Government is meeting Faysal al-Husayni, who admits to being a PLO man.

Prime Minister Shamir and the Cabinet he is in charge of are to no small extent responsible for the intense courting of the PLO. The prime minister and the Cabinet members must once and for all define the addressee for a political dialogue. If Shamir declares his willingness to enter a dialogue with local "Palestinian leaders," he must dispel the vagueness and clearly say who those leaders are and according to what criteria their leadership will be tested. It is clear to Shamir, just as it is to Beilin, that local leaders such as Al-Husayni, Sari Nusaybah, and others are identified with the PLO—and what person not identified with the PLO can be called a "leader?"

In the absence of a clearly defined policy and a quick decision on whom to talk to and about what, the crack opened by the nocturnal trysts with PLO activists will only widen.

Shamir must embrace Minister Sharon's recommendation and by virtue of his authority must summon an intense political debate in the Inner Cabinet at the end of which a decision should be made on the addressee for negotiations. The moment such an addressee exists, there would no longer be room for clandestine meetings such as the ones held the past few nights. Political negotiations must be conducted by the government rather than by political wheeler-dealers.

MK Darawshah Met With 'Arafat in Cairo in Jan

TA1602162689 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 Feb 89 p 4

[Report by Knesset correspondent Hayim Shibi]

[Excerpt] "'Arafat told me: I am willing to talk to any Israeli prime minister, including Shamir." This was stated by Knesset Member 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah in the wake of the meeting he held last month in Cairo with 'Arafat and his aides.

Darawshah decided to publicize the meeting now in view of the "series of meetings" Israeli Knesset members have been holding with Palestinian figures.

Here is Darawshah's report on the meeting: "I was in Cairo on 6 January. I had been invited to a conference of the Egyptian Workers Union with the participation of Egyptian ministers and members of parliament. 'Arafat was there with the entire Palestinian leadership and his close aides.

"At the end of the conference, I was invited to a room in the Mandarin Hotel where 'Arafat was staying. He hugged me and kissed me. His message was: Tell the Israelis that we want true peace, a lasting peace safeguarding the rights of both nations. We want permanent peace between two countries for two peoples."

Darawshah added: "'Arafat was very optimistic in his assessment of the prospects of convening an international conference by the end of this year. He said time and again: I do not rule out negotiations with Shamir." Darawshah pointed out that he had not been asked to deliver this message directly to a specific Israeli element.

I asked Darawshah: "Why are you now publicizing the meeting for the first time, over 1 month after it took place?"

Darawshah's reply: "I did not want the meeting to hinder the dialogue taking place between PLO men and Israeli Knesset members in Paris, The Hague, and other locations. I wanted first of all to give the Jewish-Palestinian dialogue a chance." [passage omitted]

Levin Summoned to USSR Foreign Ministry

TA1602140389 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 16 Feb 89 p 3

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Arye Levin, head of the Israeli consular delegation in the Soviet Union, was summoned to the Soviet Foreign Ministry yesterday for a talk with the chief of the political department dealing with the Middle East issue.

Many issues pertaining to Israel's relations with the Soviet Union were raised in the talk, but the Soviet Foreign Ministry officials did not bring up Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's upcoming tour of various capitals in the Middle East.

Israel has recently relayed several messages to the Soviet Union, noting its willingness to host Shevardnadze.

Hungary Hopes for Normalization in Relations

TA1602171989 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 Feb 89 p 7

[Report by Budapest correspondent Agnes Pesti and Dani Kipper]

[Excerpt] Hungarian Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth told Religious Affairs Minister Zvulun Hammer that he would be glad to visit Israel. Nemeth said he hopes normalization in Hungarian-Israeli relations will be attained by mid-1989.

The Hungarian prime minister noted that Hammer's visit, the first official visit in Hungary by an Israeli minister, symbolizes the additional rapprochement undergone in relations between the two countries.

Shortly before departing Budapest, Hammer was granted an audience with the Hungarian prime minister in which he delivered a message to him from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. [passage omitted]

Paper Says Peres, Shamir Have 'No Plan'

TA1002134289 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Feb 89 p B2

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "Bush Is Waiting for Shamir"]

[Excerpts] The new U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is familiar with events in our region. This became evident from his appearances before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which approved his appointment. He also showed that he is familiar with Israel's internal affairs. "It would be very hard to reach substantial results (in advancing negotiations for peace) when Israel is divided internally," he said.

This week it seemed that the government is beginning to repeat itself. Suddenly, in the midst of night and day sessions with Yisra'el Qeysar and Hayim Haberfeld [Histadrut heads], Finance Minister Shim'on Peres found the time to tell reporters that he has his own peace plan, which he is going to formalize and make public soon after the prime minister returns from his U.S. visit.

According to reports in the press, Shim'on Peres has doubts as to whether the prime minister or the foreign minister have a peace plan. There is no need to wait for the "next Cabinet session" to learn of Peres' plan. It is true, I have a plan, said Peres at the Cabinet. Why delude ourselves? There are differences of opinions between us. We (the Alignment) favor a territorial compromise...

If this is the "plan", it can be safely stated: Not only Shamir but also Peres has no plan. [passage omitted]

In any event, Washington, expecting Shamir, is not in a rush. This can be learned from the contacts between Jerusalem and Washington to set the dates for the meetings between the prime minister, President Bush, and his administration personnel. "Take your time," the Americans told Israel, "and work out your ideas."

This is not mere politeness. Washington is awaiting Israeli ideas for advancing the peace process simply because it has none. The less the government is divided, the better for the issue.

The Reagan-Shultz era is mentioned longingly whenever the political subject is raised. This kind of talk is rather an exaggeration. The "Reagan plan" (that in fact talks of an almost complete Israeli withdrawal) and the "Shultz plan" (that, at least as far as the territories are concerned, is not much different from Reagan's) together with opening the dialogue with the PLO—all took place during the days of Reagan and Shultz.

The news that something is cooking in the United States is groundless. This is simply because there is no chef, as the process of compiling the administration is not over yet. There is also no time to cook, because the heads of the administration are busy with enforcing the NATO pact. (Baker is preparing these days to leave for Western Europe.)

Some remarks already made by President Bush and his right-hand man James Baker on the Middle East are worth noting. When asked if he trusts PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, Bush said: Not completely.

Indeed, it seems that the U.S.-PLO dialogue will not be stopped soon. Washington, however, does not view the PLO as a necessary partner for negotiations. And if the Israeli Government is firm in its objection to letting the PLO take part in the negotiations, Washington would not be able to force it to accept.

When asked, administration officials say that the dialogue with the PLO is intended to "examine the latter's intentions." It seems that Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is right in claiming in this week's consultations in Jerusalem that: "So far, it appears that the PLO is examining Washington to see how far it is willing to go."

Israel should not be too anxious over this matter as well. Baker has openly spoken of "firm principles" guiding the administration's policy, as he put it:

Jordan has to take part in any agreement; the Palestinians (he did not say PLO) must participate in defining their own future (as stated in the Camp David accords); and yet, "we still maintain that an independent Palestinian state would not add to a lasting and just peace."

After these stipulations were made, it is not clear what the Bush administration still has to talk about with the PLO, especially after Baker himself declared that the United States can indeed play an influential role in the peace process, but one should avoid fostering the notion that it could "provide the peace" and bring about Israel's concessions.

Baker believes that if a stable peace is desired it should be acknowledged that it can only be achieved through direct negotiations between the parties. The United States should do all it can to advance the chances of such negotiations. But it is not its job, Baker noted, to exert pressure on Israel. It is clear that finding a solution is in Israel's best interests, but "both sides must find a way to it, and they both have to give each other something."

If the "other side" maintains that only Israel should give something—meaning withdraw from all the territories—this reminder by Baker is not without weight. What does this other "something" mean? According to Baker, this would be decided in negotiations and not in preconditions. The attitude of the Bush-Baker Administration toward the Soviet Union's part in the peace process is interesting.

Gorbachev has stated that there will be no peace without the USSR having an equal status. It is possible that this outspoken position influenced George Shultz in adopting the idea of an international conference. While the previous administration has already accepted granting the USSR equal status in the international auspices forum, it seems that Bush and Baker are not rushing to cash this unsigned check.

First of all, the new administration stipulates that in order for the USSR to participate in the process, it has to be "constructive" in its attitude, which, in Baker's translation means that it has to demonstrate its intentions in acts rather than words; that is, restore its political ties with Israel, continue providing exit permits, and stop supporting terrorist countries such as Libya. Jerusalem has learned of these assessments from good sources in the U.S. Administration while making arrangements for the preparation of the prime minister's trip to Washington. [passage omitted]

The U.S. stand, therefore, is that Soviet positions still need close examination and that there is no way of stating at this time that there are new thoughts dictating Soviet foreign policy in Gorbachev's Moscow. The same holds true for the Middle East, it is said in Washington.

That is perhaps why Washington is not pressing Shamir to come up with a "peace plan" of his own. Washington also needs some time off. Mainly because it needs time to examine two matters: the real direction of the PLO and the real intentions of the USSR.

Israel is pressed by a certain factor called the intifadah [uprising], that, according to all visible signs, could cause an erosion in the support Israel enjoys in the Senate, which is thought to be its stronghold. Israel's friends have already notified Shamir of this possible trend.

It is hard to tell to what extent the "plan" or "bunch of ideas" Shamir is to present in Washington next month would change the situation in the territories. As long as Washington sees the PLO as an element that no agreement can be reached without, there is no reason to expect the intifadah to die out.

The precondition for advancing the peace process, therefore, is blocking the "PLO momentum," the alternative being a Palestinian state. Many in Israel, including the Alignment, side with this solution. Those who totally reject it, however, should not hold on to the illusion that the "new plan" has the answer. All the plans have already been proposed: "the Jordanian option"; "a territorial compromise"; "autonomy"; "functional autonomy", and what not.

There is evidence that the Washington Administration, at least, knows all this. That is why they are not in a hurry and are not rushing Yitzhaq Shamir.

8 Foreign Affairs, Defense Subcommittees Set Up

TA1402102389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Feb 89 p 2

[Report by Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee yesterday set up eight sub-committees to handle specific spheres; on acquisitions, chaired by Binyamin Begin (Likud); on emergency alerts, chaired by Refa'el Eytan (Tzomet); on intelligence, chaired by Eliyahu Ben-Elisar (Likud) who chairs the full committee; on the territories, chaired by Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer (Alignment); on the defence budget, chaired by 'Uzi Landau (Likud); on education in the IDF, chaired by

Arye Eli'av (Alignment); on the diplomatic service, chaired by Shlomo Hilel; and on security legislation, chaired by Avraham Sharir.

'Millions' Saved Every Year on A-4 Overhauls

TA1502111589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Feb 89 p 8

[Report by defense correspondent Kenneth Kaplan]

[Excerpts] Nevatim—A handful of aircraft technicians are saving the Israel Air Forces [IAF] some millions of dollars every year by carrying out advanced maintenance on ageing A-4 Skyhawks in a shed at the air base here. The Air Force saves between $3 million [m.] and $3.5m. per year by servicing the planes at the base instead of sending them to the Israel Aircraft Industries' Bezeq facility.

According to the unit's commander, the IAF is saving time as well as money, with the unit cutting the turn-around time significantly. The maintenance is carried out after 800 flight hours, and includes removal and service of the engine, a complete re-wiring of the plane and structural repairs.

The Air Force has decided to use its fleet of Skyhawks primarily as advanced trainers for all flight school graduates. [passage omitted]

The $3.5m. figure for savings takes labour costs and all other expenses into consideration.

Security Forces 'Worried' About Settlers Group

TA1002150689 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 10 Feb 89 pp 1, 10

[Report by military correspondent Avi Bnayahu]

[Excerpt] The security forces are worried about the expanding activities of a group of settlers in Samaria who have conducted numerous acts of retaliation and violent patrols in Arab villages in Samaria during the past month.

A debate chaired by Brigadier General Gabi Ofir, commander of the troops in Judaea and Samaria, was held at the IDF's Central Command this week to discuss the institutionalization and expansion of the activities of the group whose central core lives in Ari'el. 'AL HAMISHMAR has learned about this from official security sources.

In the debate, a decision in principle was made to use tear gas to disperse settlers, as well as to take preemptive measures to forestall any spectacular operations in Arab localities. Tear gas was already used this past week to drive settlers out of the Arab village of 'Azzun.

The group operates regularly, particularly in villages along the trans-Samaria road, and its members have already distributed four leaflets among settlers in Samaria.

Security sources fear a deterioration in the situation that might lead to anarchy in the region and to violence and dangerous confrontations between Jews and Arabs.

Our military correspondent has learned that the IDF commander in the area has summoned some of the men and warned them that if they do not stop their actions they will be arrested. Army sources in Samaria told 'AL HAMISHMAR that the group uses a special method and can, on very short notice, mobilize hundreds of settlers that the Judaea and Samaria Council of Settlements cannot control.

Ron Nahman, head of the Ari'el local council, confirmed to our military correspondent the existence of the group but begged not to be held responsible for it. "The defense and police affairs ministers are in charge of the issue," Nahman said. [passage omitted]

New Policies on Roadblocks Announced

TA1202055689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] The IDF has ordered the removal of the permanent roadblocks that were set up in various locations in the territories, and has decided that, in the future, roadblocks will be set up only on special occasions and in accordance with operational needs. This is reported by our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe.

According to another directive, it has been decided that only those residents of the territories under 40 years of age will be forced to remove stone roadblocks, burning tires, and other heavy objects from the streets. A senior military source has explained that it is usually children who erect these rock roadblocks and throw stones; there is, therefore, no reason to confront the adult population, which is usually not involved in such incidents.

The military source also said that the increase in the number of firebombs thrown in the past 2 weeks can be explained by the organizers' call to escalate the uprising.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Arab Gets 4-Year Sentence

TA1602164889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Excerpt] An Arab who threw a stone at a train traveling from Lod to Haifa was sentenced to a 3-year jail term and another year suspended sentence today. This is the heaviest sentence handed down to a stone thrower within the Green Line since the beginning of the uprising. Our correspondent Amir Fink reports that 19-year-old Khalid al-Qadayim of Lod was convicted of throwing stones at a train that passed near the Al-Zahra Arab school in Lod approximately half a year ago. The stones penetrated the train, but there were no injuries. [passage omitted]

6 Wounded in Gaza Strip

TA1602190189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Six Arab inhabitants were wounded by IDF soldiers' gunfire during disturbances today in the Gaza Strip. This was told to our correspondent Arye Gus. The IDF spokesman says that so far he has not received any information on this.

This evening an Egged bus on its way to Beersheba was stoned in the outskirts of Halhul. One of its windows was smashed, but there were no injuries.

Youth Dies of Gunshot Wounds

TA1702055789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] An Arab youth died at the hospital in Nabulus after being shot by soldiers during a violent demonstration last night. The incident occurred when the youth was about to throw a big rock at a soldier. Another youth was wounded in the disturbance.

There were several violent encounters in the Gaza Strip yesterday. Six Palestinians were reported wounded in clashes with Israeli soldiers.

Earlier in the day, the East Jerusalem Al-Maqasid Hospital announced that a 4-year-old girl had died of wounds sustained in an explosion on Monday in the village of Tayasir near Nabulus. Army investigators said she and her brother were playing with an unexploded shell they found in an IDF training area when it went off. Both were wounded by the blast, and she died yesterday before noon.

A stone was thrown yesterday at the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv train as it was passing Battir in the Jerusalem hills. No one was hurt, but a window in the train was smashed.

7 Sentenced for 'Disturbances'

TA1702113089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Seven inhabitants of the Ramallah area were given prison terms for participating in disturbances, particularly stone throwing.

Our correspondent Arye Gus points out that six of the defendants pleaded guilty, and their sentences were reduced following a plea bargain with the military prosecutor. They were given a 6-month prison term and a 12- to 18-month suspended sentence.

Colonel Dani Guwueta, the president of the Judaea and Samaria military tribunals, said that had they not admitted to the charges and had been convicted, they would have received tougher punishment. The seventh youth, who admitted to trying to snatch a weapon from a soldier and to running amok, was given a 1-year prison term and a 3-year suspended sentence.

'Uprising' Command Prevents Moneychanging

TA1202092889 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 12 Feb 89 p 6

[Report by Oren Kohen]

[Text] Members of the Unified National Command of the Uprising last weekend managed to make the exchange rate for the Jordanian dinar rise substantially. On Friday, masked persons encircled money changers' shops and ordered them to close, instructing them that money changing would be forbidden until Monday. They also notified the population of the ban on currency exchange and trading in the Jordanian dinar until Monday. By this step, the members of the Unified National Command of the Uprising hope to increase demand and support for the dinar, the value of which has dropped by 65 percent over the past 3 months.

The members of the Unified National Command of the Uprising have announced that these steps were taken as countermeasures against the the policy of the Israeli authorities which, they believe, are aimed at weakening the Jordanian currency. In the territories, doubt has been expressed as to the youths' ability to stabilize the dinar over the long run.

These steps were taken in parallel with King Husayn's instructions ordering money changers to close down for 3 days after the dinar's exchange rate dropped sharply in Jordan.

The economic situation in the territories has taken a sharp toll on the residents, most of whose salaries are linked to the dinar. One of the residents yesterday said jokingly: "That's it. Now we have a government and a confederation with Jordan. Our money changers' shops are closed in alliance with theirs."

Government Reportedly Controlled by Alignment

TA1502124889 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 15 Feb 89 p 6

[Commentary by Amnon Dankner: "No Likud Clamoring Will Stop Transfer of Treasury Funds to Histadrut"]

[Text] The Likud Knesset faction's shouts of anger over the agreement Peres made with the Histadrut cover up frustration and despair. It is not for nothing that Shim'on Peres responded coldly and with a measure of disdain. Even he knows—just as Shamir and his friends realize—that the hot air emanating from the mouths of [Likud Knesset Members] Tikhon, Shamay, and Weinstein poses no real threat. Despite all the Likud's clamoring, Peres is doing exactly what he pleases in transferring Treasury funds to the Histadrut.

This is the case not only with the Treasury. Some 2 months after the setting up of the government, it has already become clear that it is much more an Alignment government than a Likud one. It is true that the Likud has the post of prime minister, but it is not worth much when the Alignment has control of the Treasury and the Defense Portfolios.

Yitzhaq Rabin does just as he pleases and with a lot of self-confidence. It is true that from time to time Ari'el Sharon organizes a small intifadah [uprising] in the Cabinet, but the storm usually dies down several minutes later. Rabin is not taken in by the shouting from the right, just as he does not get excited about the screaming from the left. The Likud does not have any say in the defense establishment, in formulating defense policy, or in the tactics adopted to repress the intifadah.

A similar situation exists in the Treasury: Shim'on Peres has run away with the bank. He is doing with it whatever he feels like and will continue to do so in the future. The power that comes with the job has begun to give a healthy blush to Peres, who looked a little dejected because he had been cut off from diplomatic issues. He has now begun to understand that all the ministers and director generals have to dance to the tune of his cash register. It involves not only the allocation of funds.

In the drawers of Peres' desk, there are hundreds of requests for appointments of directors to government-owned companies, and he is holding up their approval. Likud members who wish to have their colleagues appointed to these positions will now have to be more polite to Peres.

The Likud is also facing lots of difficulties in its efforts to have Uri Porat reappointed [director general] to the Broadcasting Authority. As things stand now, the Alignment is firm in its opposition to such a move and will prove once again that it is running the show. The hurdles set up by the Alignment in the path of Roni Milo's new ministry must be seen in this context. It is not that the ministers of health, and energy and infrastructure really care about giving up this or that department. They simply regard Milo as the main bulldozer in advancing the Likud's interests in the government, and they wish to show him in his own court who really matters.

The Alignment's takeover of the government is also helped by Yitzhaq Shamir's passivity. His only desire is not to rock the boat. Shamir half-heartedly supports Rabin and his policy, and Peres and his economic plan, while trying to rein in his angry Likud colleagues and to assure the stability of his position. Shamir's nightmare is a coalition crisis in which the ultraorthodox and religious parties join up with the Alignment. They have been waiting to trip up Shamir since the humiliation they suffered during the setting up of the government. The Likud is therefore being held hostage by the Alignment, which can threaten to turn any minor dispute into an all-out war. An Alignment victory is thereby assured in any confrontation.

Those who say that the Alignment is ailing, split, lacking fighting troops, and doomed to a serious drop in strength in another election, might be right, but until then the Alignment enjoys the fact that the state's economic, defense, and political power is totally concentrated in its hands. If that spells the Alignment's demise, it is certainly a pleasant and grand way to go.

King Husayn Returns From Arab Council Talks

JN1602164789 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn has returned home with God's care and protection from Baghdad this evening after he participated in the first summit of the Arab Cooperation Council which comprises the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Iraq, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the YAR. [passage omitted]

The Jordanian delegation of His Majesty King Husayn also returned. The delegation comprises the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the political adviser, the special adviser to his majesty the king, the chief chamberlain, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the information minister.

Telephones Al-Asad on Talks

JN1702124689 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] His majesty the king and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad reviewed on the telephone this morning Arab developments, especially the founding of the new Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] proclaimed in Baghdad yesterday.

In a telephone call his majesty made to the Syrian president, Mr Al-Asad congratulated his majesty on the formation of the council and expressed hopes that it would benefit the Arab nation and the cause of Arab unity.

Spanish Foreign Minister Holds News Conference

JN1202082689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Amman—Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, Spanish foreign minister and chairman of the EC foreign ministers council, said the EC's current political moves were a result of many important developments. These developments are: Jordan's decision to disengage legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, the popular intifadah [uprising] witnessed by the occupied Arab territories, the last PNC resolutions in Algiers, and the PLO's recognition of Resolutions 242 and 338 and renunciation of violence.

In a news conference he held last night in Amman, Fernandez-Ordonez added that the delegation's visit to the region was the result of a decision made by the EC foreign ministers council. The delegation will submit a report on the results of their visit to the EC foreign ministers council in the meeting to be held in Madrid on 14 February. He said: Europe is interested in the Middle East for economic, historical, political, and strategic reasons. Therefore, the EC decided to embark on intense political activity to push peace efforts forward in order to convene an international conference on the Middle East crisis and not be satisfied with merely issuing statements. He added: This European diplomatic activity has become possible due to the positive steps taken by the Palestinians during the PNC meeting held recently in Algiers. He said that European diplomatic action does not mean presenting a new peace initiative. He indicated that there are enough peace initiatives and European efforts will flow toward initiatives that are supported internationally. This includes the holding of the international peace conference with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the PLO and the five permanent members of the Security Council.

In answer to a question on his concept of the nature of the international conference, he said: The international peace conference will be held under the supervision of the United Nations, where the role of the United Nations and the five permanent members of the Security Council will be to help the parties to the conflict hold dialogue and solve all disputed issues.

On his concept of the European role in the coming stage, he said: The European role will consist of persuading and encouraging the parties to the conflict to participate in the international conference. He indicated that he had the impression there was a change in the stands of the parties to the conflict. On this topic, he mentioned the opinion poll which showed that 55 percent of the Israelis accept the principle of dialogue with the PLO.

In answer to a question on coordination with the United States over solving the Middle East crisis, he said: There is contact and information exchange between the EC and the U.S. Administration. He indicated that there had been disagreements with the former U.S. Administration on some issues, one of which is the role of the PLO in the peace process. However, he explained that he does not know the new U.S. Administration's stand. He added that the U.S. secretary of state will visit Europe soon where this issue will be discussed with him. On this topic, he said that the new United States' stand is to open dialogue with the PLO.

On the nature of the delegation's talks with Jordanian officials, he said: Many issues were discussed, some of which were the nature and prerogatives of the international conference, in addition to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, establishing their independent state, and economic cooperation between Jordan and the EC.

The delegation leaves Amman this morning for Egypt on the second stage of its present tour of the region which will also include the SAR.

TIMES on European 'Responsibility' in Mideast

JN1302081189 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Feb 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Europe Could Still Do More"]

[Text] The Troika European Economic Community (EEC) foreign ministers working visit to Jordan is of course a very welcomed event. Jordan has always subscribed to the

conviction that the European Community has a very valuable role to play in the quest for peace in the Middle East. Recent developments in the region, especially in the wake of the Palestinian uprising, have made the European role rather indispensable to the peace process. This unique European role has lately been further accentuated by the apparent decision of the Bush administration to go slow on its involvement in the Arab-Israeli conflict pending a general review of its posture on all regional and international issues and conflicts.

What the Arab side is mostly concerned about is the fear that the peace process in the Middle East is irrevocably locked in a vicious circle without a real start or end. That is why the words of Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, leader of the EEC delegation visiting Jordan, that the EEC has no new initiative are music in the ears of the Arabs. One cannot help but agree with the Spanish foreign minister when he said that the world had enough initiatives and it is now time to start the process of implementing existing initiatives. Otherwise the countries and peoples of the Middle East would be truly going in circles without an end in sight.

The question that is uppermost on the minds of the Arabs is where do we go from here, especially in view of the latest American position to put its participation in the Middle Eastern peace process on hold. The answer surely must come from Europe which happens to hold many cards in its hands. With the Palestinian intifadah well into its fifteenth month and the casualty rate among them ever more increasing, it is no longer enough to rely on friendly persuasion tactics to convince the Israeli government to heed the international call for a speedy resolution of the Palestinian conflict.

As the Israeli economy has gotten more vulnerable than ever due to the prolongation of the Palestinian revolt, now is the time for Europe to apply pressure where it could hurt Israeli pockets. There is no need to spell out all the measures available to Europe should it wish to help Israel see the light of day as they are indeed plentiful.

While the U.S. may afford to let the chances of arriving at a permanent and just settlement in the Middle East slip away, Europe cannot. Europe and the Middle East region are organically linked and intertwined in more than one way. European countries have a special responsibility towards the countries of the Middle East and naturally these countries look to them for full involvement in the stalemated peace process. That is why Jordan and the rest of the Arab parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict view with optimum favour the current visit of the European troika to their capitals in these critical times and expect much to come out of it.

American Woman Shot Dead in North by Gunmen

NC1602171089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1659 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Gail Bosco Harfouche, an American woman who is married to a Lebanese, was killed yesterday on the main road leading to Al-Burj al-Shamali village in 'Akkar [north of Tripoli]. According to security reports, gunmen riding in a BMW chased Gail's car and opened fire killing her.

'Awn Sets Conditions for Solution to Fighting

NC1702065489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] A statement issued by the Army Command's Guidance directorate yesterday said that, as a result of the efforts to eliminate the sources of tension and pending the drawing up of a final framework for resolving the main problem which sparked off the military flareup, an agreement has been reached on adopting certain measures to facilitate the free movement of the citizens to return normalcy to the areas of clashes.

Sources close to General Michel 'Awn have pointed out that the measures agreed upon are temporary and aim to enable the citizens to carry on their normal life. But the agreement or solution is contingent upon the militia's stand, which must recognize the presence of a powerful state and end the state-within-a-state policy. The sources noted that the statement, which was issued yesterday, clearly stipulates that the definition of the final framework for solving the problem represents the basis of a comprehensive solution with regard to the establishment of a true state and the elimination of the militia's authority.

According to the Lebanese Forces [LF], the aforementioned agreement is a security agreement which provides for the withdrawal of troops from certain positions. But the Army's sources denied this. Meanwhile, sources close to 'Awn outlined his conditions for ending the struggle as follows:

1. The LF should withdraw from administrative Beirut;

2. The LF should hand over the ports and stop collecting protection money;

3. The LF should cancel its Development Council, which was formed recently; and,

4. The LF should guarantee the freedom of the deputies' will.

Praises Army's 'Discipline'

NC1702104789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] After meeting with Officers Edgar Ma'luf and 'Isam Abu Jamrah [members of Michel 'Awn's cabinet] today, General 'Awn said that he briefed them on the background to the recent clashes, related developments, and the implications of the fighting. He also briefed them on the goals achieved by stopping these clashes until a comprehensive solution is found that will end attempts at weakening the state and usurping power.

'Awn said: The state's sovereignty cannot be subject to bargaining with any local or external party. The state will not permit any of the forces of the inherited status quo to place themselves in a position to undertake a power struggle with authority itself. He praised the Army's discipline and courage, and said that it fully measured up to its mottos of honor, sacrifice, and loyalty.

Reportage on Clashes Between Army, Lebanese Forces

Army Command Issues Statement

NC1602131289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Statement issued by the Army Command's Directorate of Guidance in Beirut on 16 February—recorded]

[Text] Although the Army has strictly observed the cease-fire agreement in the various areas, gunmen directed bursts of sniper fire at military vehicles and cars this morning, creating an atmosphere of fear among the citizens.

Gunmen, military reinforcements and concentrations, and movements in the direction of the Army's centers and barracks in more than one area were observed last night and this morning. Gunmen raided the homes of some military personnel. These actions caused considerable tension. They were coupled with the spread of biased rumors by private media, such as Radio Free Lebanon, the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation, and others, on violations by the Army or the capture of some centers by gunmen. These media claim that the Army shelled the 'Ayn al-Rummanah area yesterday. The truth, however, is that gunmen's shells, which were directed at military vehicles on Camille Sham'un Boulevard, landed in residential areas in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, during the battles and 30 minutes after the cease-fire. The inhabitants of Al-Ashrafiyah and Kisrawan are perhaps the ones who can definitely say who fired these shells.

While emphasizing that it is dealing with some of the strange situations, which the gunmen are fabricating, in a calm and appropriate manner, the Army command reassures the Lebanese people in all areas of the strength of its Army, unity, and cohesion. It stresses that this Army's virtues, selflessness, and confidence keep it from indulging in any militia-like, tribal, or undisciplined actions.

RFL on East Beirut Activity

NC1602122089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Excerpts] So far the patriarchate in Bkirki has not received any reply from General Michel 'Awn concerning the withdrawal of army personnel from the areas of tension and the reopening of roads in consolidation of the cease-fire. [passage omitted]

According to the latest security report, the sound of machinegun fire and rocket explosions is being heard in the Adma-Tabarja area.

Army Opens Crossing Points

NC1602132789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Communique by the Lebanese Army Command's Guidance Directorate in Al-Yarzah on 16 February]

[Text] The Army Command announces that the 'Ayn al-Dulb, Monte Verde, and Museum crossings are open to all the citizens. There is no longer any illegitimate military presence at these crossing points. People using these crossings points do not have to pay any fees, protection money, or any financial dues.

'Violent' Clashes Resume

NC1602131089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] We have just received a report that violent clashes involving the use of all types of weapons have resumed between the Army and the Lebanese Forces [LF] on Camille Sham'un Boulevard.

RFL on Army Violations

NC1602153889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Army units are continuing to violate security at the same time that there are efforts being made at the highest levels to restore stability to the eastern areas. A number of rockets fell on the areas of Al-Hadath, Furn al-Shubbak, and 'Ayn al-Rummanah this afternoon, and the Tabarja road came under sniper fire from military positions in Adma. In addition, some Army units attempted to close in on one of the LF barracks along Camille Sham'un Boulevard in the Al-Hadath area.

In another development, the Army is still amassing troops, who were originally stationed in its barracks in the north, along the Al-Madfun Road. The Army has assembled an approximately 200-man force equipped with nine troops carriers, two 106-mm guns, and a rocket launcher. We have also learned that Army personnel are fortifying their positions along all fronts and are even taking up new positions, thus showing their intention to wage a new round of fighting after their attempt yesterday to achieve the goals contemplated by their command failed.

A source in the LF has denied reports that they shelled the Al-Hadath and 'Ayn al-Rummanah areas from Al-Karantina. The source stressed that the LF did not and will not shell any area in which our defenseless and innocent kinfolk are living.

LF Shells Al-Hadath

NC1602153089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] An Army source has reported that Al-Hadath is coming under violent artillery shelling from LF positions in Al-Karantinah. The Army command in Al-Yarzah called on the people in Al-Hadath to take the necessary precautions for their safety.

Clashes are still continuing between the Army and the LF on Camille Sham'un boulevard. Various types of weapons are being used in the fighting. Security sources said that the Army is implementing a plan to purge the area of LF pockets.

REUTER NEWS AGENCY reported that more than 50 people were killed and 110 wounded as a result of battles that took place yesterday and today. Shells were falling at the rate of 15 per minute. News agencies reported that the Lebanese Army is gaining the upper hand.

Lebanese Army sources said today that gunmen of the LF have taken up positions on high-rise buildings in Tabarja to carry out attacks against the Army forces, and that these gunmen are using the people as shields.

Withdrawal of Army, LF Set

NC1602175889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] The intensive contacts and endeavors made today to remedy the situation in the eastern areas have been productive. The four-member committee of representatives from the Army and LF reached an agreement for withdrawing all Lebanese Army and LF military personnel from the newly formed combat lines in the eastern area and returning them to their barracks.

The following statement was issued by the guidance directorate in the Lebanese Army this evening:

As a result of the efforts made to calm down the situation and to eliminate the causes of tension, and until a final agreement is reached to resolve the original problem that caused the recent flare-up, arrangements in the positions have been made to facilitate the citizens' movement and to bring the situation at the site of the clashes back to normal.

Calm Prevails in Eastern Area

NC1602201289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Total calm prevails in the entire eastern area following the agreement reached at 1800 today by the quadripartite committee of representatives from the Army and LF. In implementation of this agreement, all the forces and armed military elements have begun withdrawing from the areas of tension.

LF Reportedly Planned Coup

NC1702065789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] According to informed political sources, General Michel 'Awn embarked on his initiative to confront the LF after receiving reports that the LF intended to stage a military coup and seize power. The sources referred to the attempt to assassinate Colonel 'Isam Abu Jamrah when Gen 'Awn was in Tunis. The attempt failed when the motorcade of Phalangist leader George Sa'adah passed in front of the rigged car.

According to the same sources, Samir Ja'ja' [LF commander] received clear support and a demand from the Israeli leaders represented by Dan Shomron, chief of the Israeli Army staff, who met with him in occupied Palestine last week. The demand was that any action should be taken that would thwart the efforts of the Arab good offices committee.

'Gradual' Withdrawal Reported

NC1702070089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Excerpts] The eastern areas spent a calm night and there were no reports of any major security incident. This followed 3 days of fighting, during which 57 people were killed and 189 injured, according to the latest report from AFP.

Security sources have confirmed that a gradual withdrawal of military forces began last night. They noted that the LF and the Army are committed to the agreement reached by the quadripartite committee. [passage omitted]

The Fifth Department of the LF has issued the following statement:

In implementation of the agreement concluded by the quadripartite committee last night, the LF are now withdrawing their units and military vehicles from the areas extending from Nahr al-Mawt, Al-Zalqa', Antilyas, 'Awkar, Al-Naqqash, up to Al-Dubayyah.

LF Begins Withdrawal

NC1702114089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Christian deputies and key figures will meet at Bkirki at 1430 today at the invitation of Patriarch Sfayr and will attempt to tackle the repercussions of the recent events between the Lebanese Army and the LF.

Meanwhile, the fifth branch of the LF General Staff has issued the following statement:

In continuation of the withdrawal process which started yesterday, the LF military units are currently withdrawing from the following centers: Al-Mukallis, Hurj Thabit, Al-Hayik Square, Salome Square, Al-Sayyad Square, Cheverlot Square, Camille Sham'un Boulevard, and Galerie Sim'an preparatory to returning to their barracks.

Meanwhile, AFP reports today that shops were opened today and that traffic returned to normal in the Christian areas, where guarded calm prevails in the wake of the declaration of a military disengagement agreement between the Army and the LF. The agency adds that the two sides affirmed their commitment to the agreement worked out by the quadripartite committee.

The agency gave a new casualty toll, saying that 75 people were killed and 189 others injured in the recent fighting.

Syrian Forces Complete Deployment in Beirut Suburb

NC1602123889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] The Syrian Arab forces completed their deployment in the southern suburb today in implementation of the Damascus agreement bewteen the Amal Movement and Hizballah. The Syrian forces instituted foot and mechanized patrols in the area's streets and quarters.

A security source has stated that tomorrow the Syrian forces will begin storming operations, collection of arms, and closure of offices in the southern suburb, particularly in Al-Shiyah and Al-Ghubayrah.

Meanwhile, the joint Amal-Hizballah coordination committee is expected to convene today to assess the security measures that have been taken in the southern suburb.

Israeli Planes Fly Over South, Beirut, Mountains

NC1702103189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew in the skies of the South, Beirut, and the mountain area, breaking the sound barrier, at 1105 this morning.

Prime Minister Inaugurates New Oil Field
JN1502151389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Dayr al-Zawr—Under the patronage of Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP] and president of the Republic, a celebration was held today to inaugurate 'Umar oil field in Dayr al-Zawr province. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi represented President Hafiz al-Asad presiding over this celebration. The celebration was attended by Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; a number of ministers; the comrade secretary of the ASBP, Dayr al-Zawr branch; the governor of Dayr al-Zawr; and a number of technicians and experts at the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Wealth.

During the celebration to inaugurate 'Umar oil field, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi delivered a speech in which he said: With unshakable confidence, continuous hope, and a national effort loaded with internal and external burdens, Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, has overcome different development challenges, the most important of which included the exploitation of oil, gas, and mineral wealth. I am proud to represent President Hafiz al-Asad in inaugurating 'Umar oil field as a pioneer field and as a step to create further steps in this region. We take pride in Syria's achievements in the important oil march.

Al-Zu'bi added: I am pleased to convey to you—engineers, technicians, workers, and masses—the greetings of Syria's leader, the builder of its economic and social structure, and the maker of its glory—President Hafiz al-Asad. He asserted that Syria is seriously trying to employ the resources it saves through austerity, organization, and balance while exploiting and strengthening these resources—in addition to agriculture and industry—to deepen the foundations of national economy.

The president's representative said: Here we are standing before your achievement to bless and inaugurate it, and to celebrate the progress in oil and gas exploration and the discovery of fields, drilling of wells, building of structures, and increasing production beginning with the fields of al-Rumaylan, al-Jabsa, al-Tim, 'Umar, al-Ward to other areas of hope, whose positions are present in many places on our country's geological map.

Al-Zu'bi asserted that diverse mineral resources exist in our country. In addition to the agricultural harvest and return, the industrial economic surplus, and the increasing technological and manpower capabilities, these resources show the soundness of the economic situation and its increasing cohesion within the framework of self-reliance.

The president's representative said: By relying on the efficient, productive citizen, future generations will enjoy economic, social, and food security and the fruits of their land and homeland. He added: Through patience, struggle, and sacrifice, and under a brave leadership with thorough insight, our people have managed to face all challenges and make Al-Asad's Syria worthy of effectively building their aspirations by its economy, agriculture, and industry from the positions of capability, pride, and glory.

The prime minister asserted that this field constitutes a part of the oil structure, which became an active reality full of resources. Concluding his speech, the president's representative extended greetings to the workers and thanks to the producers. He said: The country is blessed with its sons' efforts and the results of its resources.

Mufti, Iranian Envoy on 'Plots Against Islam'
LD1502232689 Tehran IRNA in English 1632 GMT 15 Feb 89

["Hoj. Akhtari, Syrian Mufti Denounce Plots against Islam"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Damascus, Feb. 15, IRNA—The mufti of Syria, Shaykh Ahmad Kaftaru [name as received], conferred with Iranian Ambassador Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Akhtari here last night.

The two sides condemned global arrogance's plot in publishing a throughly blasphemous book injuring Muslim sentiments.

The notorious Indian-born British national Salman Rushdie who authored "The Satanic Verses" was yesterday sentenced to death by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic revolution along with all those elements knowingly involved in the publication.

Views were also exchanged at the meeting on in-depth animosity of colonialists against Islam and divine sanctities.

Damascus Radio Comments on East Beirut Fighting
JN1602173489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: There are many questions that raise themselves and facts that are revealed by the bloody and tragic fratricide and its developments and interactions in the eastern sector of Beirut between yesterday's allies and today's enemies—between Michel 'Awn's forces and the militia of Samir Ja'ja'. Additionally, there also many indications and results carried by these events on the situation in the Lebanese arena, particularly regarding the alliance of partition and coup and its hegemony, which is no longer accepted by all nationalist and popular Lebanese standards, over the eastern sector of Beirut.

The first of these questions is: What is going on in the eastern sector of Beirut? Why were the ties of this alliance of partition and coup severed? How did the conflict among its forces and militias escalate into an

armed conflict, whose fire is burning the Lebanese citizen in the eastern areas of Beirut and which imposes its threats and damaging consequences on the homeland and the citizens all over Lebanon?

The alliance of partition and coup began to spread its control through terrorism and tyranny, worked to return Lebanon to the whirpool of fratricide and war, and planned to fragment Lebanon's unity and threaten its security and territory since 23 September 1988. Since this began to occur, it became evident that the eastern areas would undoubtedly witness a conflict over power, influence, and privileges due to one simple reason—that is, the forces of this partitionist alliance will endeavor to preserve their hegemony and control, and will, therefore, stake with the homeland and push it to the edge of the cliff.

When the forces of this partitionist alliance failed to accomplish the Zionist enemy's plots to partition and fragment Lebanon as a result of the decisive nationalist resistance of the Arab people's masses in Lebanon against the partition conspiracy and the plots to strike against Lebanon's unity and to separate it from its Arab affiliation, that alliance's forces began to arrange their conditions and entrench their control, each side or party according to its whims, interests, and privileges.

Thus, conflict among the sides of this alliance began to intensify and they fell into a huge political dilemma, which the nationalist and pan-Arab forces in Lebanon managed to push them into through the rejection of the Lebanese people and nationalist forces of partition plots and their confrontation of the Zionist coup conspiracy. The smell of this conspiracy became apparent by the formation of the coup military government, under the leadership of Michel 'Awn, and the support shown by the Ja'ja' militia for this illegitimate government on 23 September 1988.

The scenario of conspiracy against Lebanon continued afterwards to hamper the presidential elections; obstruct the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies sessions; and reject the political reforms, the cancellation of sectarianism, and the achievement of national reconciliation.

Through their great concern for, and historic responsibilities toward protecting Lebanon, securing its unity and Arabhood, and drawing the horizons of its Arab democratic future, the Lebanese nationalist forces managed to confront and resist the plots of the clique involved in the coup partitionist alliance.

In light of this, the trends of 'Awn and Ja'ja' began to clash and contradict because they do not stem from feeling the nationalist and pan-Arab responsibility dictated by the challenges facing the Lebanese arena. But, they stem from privileges, influence, and fighting over temporary gains and monopoly of decisionmaking in the eastern sector. According to the partitionist forces alliance, this calls for paying the bills and settling accounts. Therefore, the bloody fratricide and the escalating conflict between 'Awn forces and Ja'ja' militias took place.

The events witnessed in the eastern sector of Beirut which fall in the framework of staking the homeland and the citizen, clearly confirm that the safety of Lebanon will only be achieved through the unity of its people and territories and the achievement of national reconciliation as the real and basic prelude to political democratic reforms, which will cancel sectarianism and privileges and make all citizens equal. Also, it will only be achieved by guaranteeing Lebanon's Arabhood and its genuine affiliation with its Arab nation, and by directing all resources and energies to liberate the part occupied in southern Lebanon from the Zionist occupiers.

Based on these principles and foundations for the salvation of Lebanon and its people, Syria will remain faithful to its pledge and pan-Arab pioneer role in Lebanon. It will continue to extend the hand of assistance and support to all faithful Lebanese and to all those who are endeavoring to end its bloody tragedy and make it reach the shores of peace and security in a manner that will confirm its nationalist and pan-Arab position; bolster its unity—land, people, and institutions; and preserve its future by defending its territory, ending the Zionist phenomenon, and liberating its southern part from the Zionist invaders.

Afghanistan

Foreign Minister Wakil Holds News Conference

LD1602214189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Statement of Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil at a news conference held in Kabul on 16 February—recorded]

[Text] Respected journalists. Yesterday, 15 February 1989, the withdrawal of the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union from the Republic of Afghanistan in accordance with the Geneva accords was completed. This move shows the goodwill and sincere, peaceful intentions of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union in bringing peace to our country and consolidating security and trust in the region and in the world.

Let us forget about the way of thinking and the attitude that the presence of the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union has been considered a mistake by the present leadership in Afghanistan and the Soviet Union and leave this judgment for history. Let us pay great respect to the courageous and humane measures of the present leadership of the two countries which, in light of a new approach and realization of developments and conditions in the domestic and international situation, have been taken in pursuance of the policy of reconstruction in international relations.

What is of importance under the present conditions, is that the leadership of Afghanistan, after the 18th PDPA Central Committee Plenum, contrary to past actions, concentrated all its efforts on preparing a suitable ground for the withdrawal of the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union from the country—despite the complicated political-military situation in the country, .

Esteemed journalists, the extremists and their regional and international supporters, who until yesterday organized the continuation of war—according to them—for the withdrawal of the Soviet forces, have now coordinated (?all efforts) toward overthrowing the legal government of the Republic of Afghanistan which, in accordance with all norms and principles of international law, is representing the people of Afghanistan and holds membership in prestigious international organizations such as the UN and the Nonaligned Movement.

At this moment Pakistani authorities in collusion with a number of other countries, through exerting pressure on the leaders of the extremist groups, are trying to unite the warmongering extremists in a council in Islamabad and are trying to provide the basis for the formation of a self-made and interim government dictated by Pakistan under the supervision of the military intelligence of Pakistan. Do not these actions, which completely contravene the Geneva accords, blatantly interfere in the internal affairs of our country?

We affirm the idea of a council, which is created by the will of all political forces and national and social personalities inside and outside the country, founded to achieve peace, end war, and form a broadbased government in line with the resolution of the UN General Assembly 43d session. We strongly reject this imposed and subservient council, which upholds the militarist and expansionist interests of the alien militarist circles and a minority fundamentalist power-hungry group.

On the other hand, recently President Ghulam Ishaq Khan of Pakistan expressed his expansionist plan and his sinister and hostile intentions in a news conference concerning our people and country. He mentioned the creation of a confederation for Afghanistan and Pakistan. These assertions reveal clearly that Pakistan is thinking of leading our beloved country with the assistance of the extremists and under the guise of a confederation. He wants to question the future and existence of Afghanistan with its dependent political identity.

The recent statement by Afghan President Najibullah, which was warmly welcomed by millions of patriotic Afghans inside and outside the country, and his slogan "homeland or death" which promises every kind of sacrifice to protect the independence, freedom, and identity of a nonaligned and neutral Afghanistan, is a resolute and shattering reply to the irresponsible plans of the Pakistani president and the extremists under their protection.

Our homeland's enemies should know that the strong Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan is on the side of the national jihad of the brave Afghan people. The Armed Forces have been tempered in the difficult conditions within the homeland and, with high combat readiness, modern equipment, and strong morale, is a reliable shield defending the independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty of its country.

Tens of thousands of PDPA members, their political allies, national patriotic forces, and social personalities, tribal militias, workers, peasants, religious leaders, intellectuals, and courageous Afghan youths constitute a strong arm of the brave and struggling people of our country at the time when the political sovereignty and independence of Afghanistan is threatened by Pakistan. They will, if necessary, bravely and courageously defend every inch of their sacred homeland and safeguard order and security, peace and life.

The enemies of peace should know that the creation of obstacles in the way of transporting food and fuel to the Afghan people, in particular to Kabul citizens, will never result in the overthrow of the sovereign Afghan Republic. On the contrary, it will provoke increasing anger and hatred by our needy people against them. We will supply the needs of our people, however small. The extremists will never succeed through missiles and economic blockades, in weakening the spirit of our people and bringing them to their knees.

Ten years of resistance by the majority of [word indistinct] Afghan people under the difficult conditions of war, is indicative of their loyalty, to confidence in and (?backing) of the sovereign republic of Afghanistan and its peaceful and humanitarian policy, in particular the policy of national reconciliation. The proof of this confidence is the return of more than 200,000 of our compatriots during the past 2 years and a considerable reduction in the number of refugees after the announcement of the policy of national reconciliation.

Esteemed journalists, while we express much gratitude for the efforts of Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan to organize the dispatch of assistance and food to the Afghan people by air and land, we seriously condemn the moves of circles and leaders in some Western nations, including France and Britain, to neutralize the efforts of the organizer of the UN economic and humanitarian assistance. The leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan and the PDPA honestly support the establishment of a nationwide peace and the formation of a broad-based coalition government through dialogue and negotiations among the Afghans themselves.

The fact that we have invited for talks Muhammad Zahir Shah, Ahmad Shah, Mas'ud and other armed opposition groups, and the seven and eight group alliances in Peshawar and Tehran, is indicative of our broadminded and sincere desire for the speedy return of nationwide peace. It is not indicative of weakness. Our difference with the armed opposition is in the fact that we are thinking about the peaceful future of the Afghan people and its reconstruction and they are only thinking about gaining and holding power. As they say, our party is not a communist party but a democratic and national party with national progressive policy and patriotic aspirations. And its members, like all Afghan people, honor the freedom, independence, religious beliefs, traditions, national pride, historic honors, and the cultural greatness of their country.

Contrary to the claims of the extremists and their protectors, we are not building socialism in Afghanistan. We declare that our economic and social order is in complete accord with the Constitution and other laws of the country, including the Domestic and Foreign Investment Law, the Trade Law, the Political Parties Law, and other laws, and is aimed at a multistructural economic order and political pluralism which takes into consideration the national character of all Afghans.

We are confident our people know that the enemies' propaganda is false, and realize that only through the participation of all parties, including the PDPA, can peace and tranquillity be achieved. We have learned from our experiences in the last 10 years how to live and serve our people, and know not to repeat mistakes. Our main aim is the cessation of the fratricidal war among the Afghans, and the reconstruction of our war-torn country. The country belongs to all of us and we can live here as equals and brothers, and be proud of being an Afghan.

With the completion of the withdrawal of the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union, we hope the United States and Pakistan will henceforth observe all their pledges and obligations set out in the Geneva accords. We also ask His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, to discharge his duty allotted him under the resolution of the 43d UN General Assembly session. We also request the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] to investigate and assess responsibly and seriously all notes handed to them by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan concerning violations by Pakistan, in accordance with the Geneva accords.

We believe that the only way to solve the crisis is through talks and understanding, and the formation of a broad-based government with the participation of all belligerent forces.

We point out to the countries supporting the Afghan armed extremist opposition that the continuation of their support for the extremists will only ignite a long-lasting civil war that would bring misery to the people of Afghanistan, further destruction of this war-stricken country, the flowing of Afghan blood, and finally, continued destabilization and tension in this corner of the world. All this can be prevented by a rational approach to events and sympathy to the people of Afghanistan. Hundreds of thousands of Afghans were either killed or wounded, and the country suffered billions of dollars in material losses. These supporters should immediately consider and study the peace-seeking proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan logically and reasonably, and give a positive reply.

The withdrawal of the Soviet military units means new conditions have evolved. All the pretexts of the extremists and their supporters—who for many years used the Soviet troops' presence as a propaganda weapon for the continuation of war and bloodshed—have now been removed. The extremists must know that Afghans oppose them—those Afghans who did not leave the country, despite the difficult circumstances of the undeclared war, despite their misery, pain, and dangers, and despite their difficulties and problems. They remained and coped.

The history of our country has revealed that fighting between Afghan brothers and compatriots has only ended in destruction, bloodshed, and devastation. If the extremists still want to continue this war, they will bear a historic responsibility and undesirable consequences. We have sufficient ability for legitimate and satisfactory defense of the homeland, for freedom, independence, as well as restoration of peace in our country.

Esteemed journalists. The book titled "The Satanic Verses" written by Salman Rushdie, contained (?false text), disrespect, and insults to sacred Islam. The publication of this book aroused the people's serious revulsion, as well as revulsion by the Muslim state of the

Republic of Afghanistan. The publication and circulation of this insulting book by the United States and Britain, who regard themselves as supporters of the extremist circles, once again displays their anti-Islamic nature and demogagic policies.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan has taken necessary measures to prevent this anti-Islamic book from reaching the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan. Meanwhile, we express our profound regrets for the maryrdom of a number of Muslims who had demonstrated against the cultural center of the United States in Islamabad and were martyred by bullets by the militarists of Pakistan, which is an Islamic country.

Finally, I would like to emphasize that work for peace is difficult. However, it is humane. Work for the continuation of fighting and bloodshed is easy. However, it is inhumane.

We now ask the esteemed journalists to raise their questions in a free democratic atmosphere and I will answer their questions.

Defense Minister Reviews Military Situation
LD1702084689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0436 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul, Feb 16, BAKHTAR—The military situation in the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan is under the control of the Armed Forces and will not allow the enemy to achieve their ominous aims to be designed by Pakistan's military strategists, said General Shahnawaz Tanay, defence minister of the Republic of Afghanistan in an interview with a military reporter of BAKHTAR.

Condemning the recent utterences made by Ghulam Ishaq Khan, president of the Republic of Pakistan, on the so-called Pak-Afghanistan confederation, he described it as quite staggering and as against all international norms, good neighbourly ties and interstate relations.

He added that Ghulam Ishaq Khan might have forgotten the heroic struggle of the Afghan people. General Tanay pointed out that in compliance with the provisions of Geneva agreements the Soviet soldiers returned to their homeland but the Armed Forces of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] possesses sufficient moral and material power to independently defend the territorial integrity of Afghanistan.

The sound approach of the RA to political matters should not be signified as its weakness. Whoever intends to encroach on the territory of Afghanistan will be given a telling lesson and the grave consequences of such acts will rest on the aggressors.

Replying to another question on the military situation in the country, he pointed out that Pakistan's Armed Forces are approaching the border line and the Pakistani militias alongside the extremist groups are engaging in the military activities.

However, the Armed Forces of the RA have dealt crushing blows to them.

All the cities and regions of strategic importance are controlled by state authority and the major transportation highways are open to traffic.

Those who have mischievous illusion on Afghanistan after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces should know that they will be faced with shattering blows by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, the defence minister said.

Protest Lodged Over Pakistani 'Aggression'
LD1602174689 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] The Information and Publication Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that the charge d'affaires of the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul was summoned today at 1600 to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The following points were made to him by the acting director of the First Political Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

While the Republic of Afghanistan has proven its goodwill by fully implementing its commitments vis-a-vis the Geneva accords for the normalization of the situation and removal of tension in the region and in the world, regrettably Pakistan continues to openly violate its commitments undertaken by signing the Geneva accords. For example, as reported by reliable sources, 600 members of the Pakistani militia, disguised as Afghans, arrived in Sar Hawzeh Subdistrict, Paktia Province, via Urgun on 10 February 1989. Some of these men carried out subversive activities in the surrounding of Nader Shah Kowt Subdistrict, Khowst Major District, and in the environs of Ghazni city.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan strongly protests to the Government of Pakistan concerning this ugly aggression by the Pakistani forces, and the blatant violation of the provisions of the Geneva accords. It seriously expects all interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan to be ended, and that there will be no further intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan or violation of the Geneva accords. If so, the responsibility for the dangerous consequences of such actions will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

Consultative Council Held in Rawalpindi

BK1602154189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Today in Rawalpindi, the Afghan Consultative Council held two sessions which discussed the proposed interim government. The sessions, presided over by Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi, were also attended by Professor Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, chairman of the Islamic alliance of Afghan mujahidin.

Mojaddedi To Rejoin Session

BK1702030889 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 17 Feb 89

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] At a meeting in Rawalpindi, [Afghan] guerrilla leaders have been haggling over the number of seats to go to guerrilla groups based in Iran. But, now the decision by a leading Afghan moderate to rejoin the conference has led to progress on the question of an interim prime minister for Afghanistan. But, there is still division about who should make up an interim government. Phil Jones sent this report from Islamabad:

[Begin Jones recording] After 6 days of being stalled while the arguments between the factions have continued, it now seems that the shura—the consultative council of more than 500 delegates—will finally get down to business. That includes naming the man who is to head the interim government. One of the moderate groups who have so far boycotted the assembly—the Afghan National Liberation Front of Prof Sibghatullah Mojaddedi—has said that they will take part, although they still have their reservations about the absence of the mujahidin groups who for the last 9 years have been fighting the war from Iran. That issue has now been turned over to a special commission of delegates to resolve, while the shura gets on with the business of trying to form the government itself.

The stage is now set for a tussle between the moderates and the fundamentalists about who should be the next prime minister. The man proposed at the moment is Ahmad Shah, the fundamentalist hardliner who headed the last ill-fated such interim government. Certainly, most of the delegates to the shura as well as the 5 million refugees now sheltering in Pakistan and in Iran are impatient for a decision about a government to take over from the Najibullah regime in Kabul. They are hoping it will put a swift end to the factional fighting that it is feared could break out now that the Soviet forces have finally left the country. [end recording]

Gaylani Rejects Proposal

BK1702101989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1003 GMT 17 Feb 89

[By Mike Gonzalez]

[Text] Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Feb 17 (AFP)—Opposition to a proposed interim rebel government in Afghanistan mounted Friday with an influential moderate resistance leader categorically rejecting the proposed prime minister.

Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, 57, leader of the moderate National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA), told delegates at a traditional assembly or consultative council, called a shura, that proposed prime minister Ahmad Shah was unacceptable, sources said.

NIFA said in a statement released Friday that it "would not participate in such a government and will even boycott the voting" if its objections to the government were not taken into consideration.

Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, 64, the current chief of the Pakistan-based seven-party Afghan resistance alliance who returned to the shura here Thursday after a six-day boycott, immediately backed Mr. Gaylani's rejection of the Shah government, NIFA sources said.

Mr. Mojaddedi had said even before Mr. Shah's nomination that he would not support a government headed by him "even if elected by the shura."

Both Mr. Gaylani and Mr. Mojaddedi said Mr. Shah had headed a mujahidin government last year which failed to receive any support.

Proposing the same person as head of government would have "no legal validity," said the NIFA press release.

The release said that presenting Mr. Shah as prime minister without naming his 28 ministers was "in defiance of all accepted procedures and norms."

The Shah government was presented Wednesday by the alliance's supreme council of Pakistan-based rebel leaders, but Mr. Gaylani said there had been "no consensus" behind the proposal.

Some 440 shura delegates were meeting Friday to discuss the government, but Iranian-based Shi'ite rebel groups continued to boycott the assembly.

The Saudi-backed Mr. Shah has received support from Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, 49, the leader of Mr. Shah's Muslim fundamentalist Etehad-e Eslami party, and from Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, 34, considered the most fundamentalist hardliner in the alliance.

Mr. Mojaddedi's son, Muhammad, also raised the question of Mr. Shah's religious affiliations. He told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE on Thursday that many shura delegates would reject Mr. Shah because he came from the Wahhabi sect.

The Wahhabi faction is the religion of the Saudi royal family, and Saudi Arabia has given the Etehad-e Eslami considerable financial support.

Mr. Mojaddedi had boycotted the shura since February 10 because of the absence of Iran-based groups, which chose not to participate complaining of lack of adequate representation.

"The non-participation and absence of a number of our brothers renders the broadness of the present shura questionable, and voting under such conditions would be unfair," said the NIFA release, Mr. Gaylani has been attending the shura sessions.

Diplomats here said the Shah government was unacceptable to moderates in the alliance and to commanders who see Mr. Shah as unpopular insider Afghanistan because he is a technocrat but not a fighter nor an administrator.

Mujahidin Capture Post, Prepare Kabul Attack

BK1702080489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0750 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 17 (AFP)—Mujahidin rebels are gearing for a final assault on Kabul and have already taken a hill resort north of the Afghan capital, resistance sources said here Friday.

Freezing temperatures and the Soviet troop withdrawal had delayed the all-out attack, said a rebel source quoted by a pro-resistance organization.

Muhammad Ata said rebels had taken Paghman, 17 kilometers (10 miles) north of Kabul, a resort traditionally used as a summer capital. He said forces of the Moscow-backed Kabul government continued to pound the resort with heavy artillery from former Soviet posts nearby.

The mujahidin would prefer to take Kabul without bloodshed and have asked residents around military installations and the airport to evacuate, but are preparing for a heavy assault nonetheless, Mr. Ata was quoted as saying by the Afghan Media Resources Center.

"At the moment Kabul commanders are working out a plan to capture Kabul without bloodshed. We hope it will bear fruit," he said.

"Although the mujahidin are confident that they can take the city without fighting, they are digging positions and mounting heavy weapons outside Kabul."

Mr. Ata's assertions could not be independently confirmed.

Officials in Kabul said 10 rockets exploded in the capital Thurday killing seven people, officials there said. Eyewitnesses said another five rockets fell north of the city.

India

Gandhi Rules Out Any More Nuclear Submarines

BK1602160689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has reiterated the country's nuclear program is entirely peaceful. Talking to newsmen after witnessing 3-hour-long naval exercises somewhere in the Arabian Sea today, Mr Gandhi said the nuclear-powered submarine INS [Indian naval ship] Chakra was acquired only for training purposes. He was replying to a question about the Pakistan prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, singling out India's acquisition of the submarine during her talks with the Chinese leaders.

When asked whether more such submarines will be acquired, Mr Rajiv Gandhi replied with a categorical no.

Earlier, addressing the officers and sailors of INS Virat, Mr Gandhi asked them to watch the increasing tension in the Indian Ocean and guard the over 2 million square kilometers of the exclusive economic zone. He said the Navy will have to play a major role in this task.

In a message to the chief of naval staff, the prime minister said it was most satisfying to see Indian Navy in action at sea. The clockwork precision and skill with which the exercises were carried out is a tribute to the Navy's professional excellence as guardians of our maritime frontiers.

Violence Noted as 120-Hour Assam Strike Begins

BK1602160989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] In Assam, normal life was disrupted in the Kokrajhar District and Udalguri Subdivision in Darrang District following a 120-hour bundh [strike] which began this morning. The bundh has been called by the All Bodo Students Union demanding a separate state for the tribals of the plains in the state.

The police chief said shops, markets, offices, and other establishments remained closed in Kokrajhar and Udalguri areas. Vehicular traffic was off the roads. Reports say there were some sporadic incidents of arson, wooden bridge burning, attacks on police pickets, and bomb explosions. Troops have taken up positions in sensitive areas to maintain peace.

Strike Enters 2d Day

BK1702090289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Reports from Guwahati say there have been violent incidents in Kokrajhar and Darrang Districts of Assam as the All Bodo Students Union sponsored 120-hour bundh [strike] entered the second day today. Agency reports say Bodo extremists set on fire a primary school in Kokrajhar District last night and attacked a police party in Udalguri subdivision of Darrang District.

In another incident a bomb was hurled on the down Kamrup express train at a place between Salakati and Kokrajhar. The bomb fell on the luggage van, but no injury was reported. Official reports say one Bodo extremist was injured in an exchange of fire with the police in Kokrajhar District. One revolver and some ammunition were recovered from them. The All Bodo Students Union is demanding a separate state for the plains tribals in Assam.

Spokesman Welcomes Sri Lankan Election Process

BK1602125489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] India has welcomed the completion of the parliamentary electoral process in Sri Lanka. Responding to queries by newsmen, an official spokesman said elections were held in very difficult circumstances with extremists' factions, both of the LTTE and the JVP, calling for boycott of polls and even threatening to disrupt elections through use of force.

Despite threats, the level of violence could be contained and elections held. The spokesman pointed out that the turnout, which was as high as 75 percent in parts of Batticaloa and 52 percent in Trincomalee, showed that people of all communities in Sri Lanka were tired of violence.

Daily on Bhutto Remarks, Commonwealth Bid

BK1502102589 Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Jan 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Euphoria and Realities"]

[Text] Pakistan is all set to stage a comeback to the Commonwealth. Curiously, New Delhi has expressed its readiness to sponsor Islamabad's bid for re-entry into the 48-member club. Recently, the Union Government's official spokesman maintained that, after the return of democracy in Pakistan, the question of India's objecting to its re-entry into the Commonwealth did not arise. One may presume that India's objective in sponsoring Pakistan's candidature could very well be just the sort of magnanimous gesture that would convince Pakistan of India's goodwill for that country.

Ms Benazir Bhutto had earlier maintained that only a democratically elected government could rejoin the Commonwealth since it was such a government which pulled out in the first place. There is a touch of naivete in both these contentions and total lack of understanding of the present Pakistan realities. There is no doubt about some improvement in Indo-Pak relations under Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. And, the restoration of democracy in Pakistan is a welcome development. But any excess optimism about a new spring in bilateral relations between the two countries would be misconceived.

As things stand now, the current trend in Indo-Pak relations could go either way—towards strengthening the present goodwill or a gradual end to the honeymoon, depending upon Ms Bhutto's domestic constraints. In fact, Islamabad's renewed striving for additional F-16 aircraft does have the potential of reversing the current positive trends in Indo-Pak relations.

Ms Bhutto is hamstrung by a military establishment that needs to be appeased and whose vested interests are closely tied to the kind of relations Pakistan conducts with India. Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, a protege of Gen Ziaul Haq, continues to call the shots as far as Pakistan's Afghan policies are concerned. Only recently Mr Yaqub Khan told the Senate rather bluntly that Pakistan would never resile from its position that the Kashmir issue was an outstanding dispute with India which remained to be settled. Ms Bhutto herself said in Jeddah that she would not accept any "lop-sided agreement" on Kashmir.

Pakistan's nuclear option is another tricky issue. Ms Bhutto has still not committed herself on this issue. Her recent observation that she has still not gone into this issue suggests her tenuous hold on sensitive matters. Either she is being kept in the dark about Pakistan's nuclear preparedness or she may as well be trying to play safe on this issue. The Indo-Pak relations under Gen Ziaul Haq touched a new low as a result largely of Pakistan's covert support to Punjab terrorists. It would be too early to say anything definitive whether Pakistan would refrain from playing the "Sikh card". Ms Bhutto has no doubt pledged not to encourage terrorists, but her words will have to be matched with deeds.

Ms Bhutto's efforts to rekindle the spirit of the Simla accord as a framework for the process of normalisation of ties between the two countries are laudable. But any euphoria in New Delhi about the changed political realities in Pakistan could prove self-defeating. One fails to understand whether India's enlightened self-interest would be served by sponsoring Pakistan's re-entry into the Commonwealth.

There is no guarantee that the new leadership in Pakistan will not use this forum as yet another platform to rake up the Kashmir issue and seek to score debating points against India. New Delhi would do well to pursue a policy of cautious optimism as far as the Indo-Pak

relations are concerned. After all, foreign policy of a country must be understood not merely in terms of diplomatic niceties but by a hard appraisal of how much weight these words carry. Unless we do this, our perceptions of Pak realities may not correspond to the actual reality, but merely remain wishful.

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD1702094789 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 17 Feb 89

["Khamene'i Attacks Britain Over 'The Satanic Verses'"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 17, IRNA—Iran Friday demanded an explanation from Britain for allowing the publication of a book widely condemned in the Islamic world for blaspheming Islam and said London's criticism of Imam Khomeyni's call for the author's execution was unjustified.

"The British Government must respond and explain to us and to all Muslims why it has allowed a dependent of theirs to make such a blunder," President 'Ali Khamene'i stressed.

"Britain is acting as if it was ignorant or maybe it really is. It is defending a man who is undefendable," he told the mass Friday prayers gathering in Tehran.

Khamene'i described as astonishing the reaction towards the affair shown by Britain which on Thursday said it was not "satisfied" by the Iranian Government's explanation of the imam's death sentence against Salman Rushdie for his book "The Satanic Verses." Indian born Rushdie is a permanent British resident.

The British Government announced that it would not upgrade its embassy in Tehran according to previous plans aimed at improving bilateral relations.

"Britain's attitude as if we owe it something is completely wrong and out of place," President Khamene'i told his audience who repeatedly shouted "Death to Britain" in support.

But in an unprecedented warning, the president called on protesters to stay away from British and other foreign embassies.

"I will issue (this order) right now, as a government official, as a Friday prayers leader and as an alim: Don't go near the embassies.

"If you don't like British or American policies, the way (to express grievances) is not like some who go over embassy walls in an uncontrolled manner.

"I bear witness that such an action is absolutely, absolutely harmful for Islam and Muslims and detrimental for the Islamic Republic.

"The enemies and infiltrators may do such things... But anyone who consciously does it is committing treason."

More than 10,000 protesters gathered in front the British Embassy in Tehran Wednesday and listening to speeches against the London government and shouting anti-British slogans.

The demonstration was held peacefully but some threw stones towards the embassy compound. No injury or damage was caused.

Khamene'i emphasized that the imam was not only the leader of the Iranian nation but of all Muslims and therefore must defend the rights of all Muslims, he added.

He said Britain was naturally concerned about the consequences of imam's decree for Rushdie's execution because "this order will undoubtedly be carried out."

"This wretched man has no choice but to die because he has confronted himself with a billion Muslims and with the imam."

Rushdie, 41, has cancelled a U.S. tour to promote his book and apparently gone into hiding under heavy British police guard after the imam's decree Tuesday and offers of about $6 million by Iranian agencies and businesses to anyone who carried out the order.

Khamene'i thanked the 15th of Khordad charity organization and the people of Rafsanjan for putting up the awards but said anyone who did execute Rushdie would do it "for the love of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)... and not for the award."

But he indicated that the author may be pardoned if he made a clear apology. "Of course, he may repent and say 'I made a blunder' and apologize to Muslims and the imam. Then it is possible that the people may pardon him."

The president's speech was many times broken by cries of "Death to Britain". Usually the speakers are given shouts of support with cries of "Death to America", "Death to Soviet Union" and "Death to Israel".

The Friday prayers was preceded by a demonstration by tens of thousands of students from Tehran's schools and high schools condemning "The Satanic Verses" and shouting "Death to America and Britain".

President Khamene'i expressed surprise over the way Britain had reacted to the Islamic Republic when in colonial days London was well known for its apparent respect for the culture and beliefs of other nations. "The British Government's move (against Iran) is a folly," he said.

Britain's junior foreign minister in charge of the Middle East William Waldegrave on Thursday described the call for Rushdie's execution as a "spectacular interference" in British internal affairs. "Our charge d'affaires in Tehran sought clarification of the issue regarding the Salman Rushdie book, and was given no satisfaction," he said.

There were no plans to break ties with Tehran but "there will be no upgrading either," Waldegrave was quoted in Manama as saying during his tour of Persian Gulf states.

But Khamene'i said: "America, Britain and (other) arrogant governments and conspirators must know that those days are gone when Muslims painfully and silently tolerated such insults."

The president said those in the West, who criticized the imam's decree against Rushdie, were basing their argument on the individual's freedom of expression.

"But how can they believe in human rights and freedom of thought for one person but not respect the thoughts and sentiments of one billion (Muslims)?" he asked.

"No one can be a Muslim and remain indifferent to insults, especially to the great prophet (PBUH)" [peace be upon him].

Further Reportage on Reaction to Rushdie Book

Students Protest in Tehran

LD1702130489 Tehran IRNA in English 1240 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 17, IRNA—Tens of thousands of secondary school students held demonstrations today voicing hatred towards Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses".

The demonstrators marched along central Tehran's main streets towards Tehran University where Friday prayers is held, shouting slogans condemning U.S. and Britain, and confirming Imam Khomeyni's instruction for Rushdie's execution.

In their six-point resolution, the demonstrators stressed on the implementation of the imam's fatwah (religious decree) and reminded that silence and indifference towards the blasphemous book was treason against Islam.

They also called on the Indian and Pakistani Governments to identify and punish those who martyred demonstrators protesting to Rushdie's book during the past week.

Mohtashemi Speech on Rushdie

LD1602150989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0933 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Speech by Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi at a 15 February memorial service in Tehran for demonstrators killed in Pakistan while protesting the publication of Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses"--recorded]

[Excerpts] Greetings to God, our prophet, and his scion. [passage omitted] Events of the past few months around the world have broken the hearts of 1 billion Muslims. Once the world's Muslims learned of the depth of the catastrophe, they become enraged. They are now rising to defend the Koran, their prophet, and Islam.

What was this horrible and devastating event? Having lost hope of defeating Islam and the Muslims in the world; having experienced the power of our Islamic revolution, as well as the power of the Koran and the Prophet of Islam; and having learned of the strength of the Islamic world, the superpowers felt that the latent power of the Islamic world is concentrated energy. They feared the explosion of such energy would destroy all of global arrogance.

They learned that the combined strength of the satanic powers is worthless against the power of the Muslims. They are nothing. The United States and the Soviet Union used their entire military, political, and intelligence resources to fight Islam within Iran. They believed that if they could defeat Islam in Iran with military warfare, if they could defeat Islam and the Koran in an armed confrontation—whether through military action or counterrevolutionary moves in Iran—they could then easily confront the Muslims and the Islamic world. They believed they could defeat Islam in other countries of the world as well. [passage omitted]

After 10 years the world gave up the hope of fighting Islam within Iran through military conflict. Global arrogance and the determined enemies of the Koran and the prophet chose another path. [passage omitted]

All the experts on Islam and the Orient and political officials at all levels in Western countries held seminars and meetings at a number of universities to plan a comprehensive way to confront Islam. They planned research programs. One example of this was a seminar held at Tel Aviv University in occupied Palestine. At this international seminar the topic of how to confront Islam, how to confront the dangers of Islam and the Islamic revolution, were discussed. For many days Zionist, domestic and foreign experts, and enemies of Islam sat down to study the topic and make plans. [passage omitted]

In this connection, one of the plans they chose was this new method which has caused a worldwide uprising in the Islamic countries. God willing, the Islamic world and

the Muslim nations will discover the depth of the conspiracy and will never allow this uprising to wither away. I hope the kind of awareness and feeling of responsibility now evident among the old and young, the men, women, and even children—with regard to the fate of Islam and the Koran—will continue to spread through the whole world and increase. I hope this will allow the nations to rise in unison against the global infidel, thus realizing the promise of God, who says that right eventually triumphs over wrong. [passage omitted]

My dear brothers, you may have heard of the depth of the catastrophe and crime which the global arrogance and the world of the infidel have hatched against Islam and the Koran.

Islam's enemies have published a book through one of global arrogance's pawns and mercenaries. This book has been translated into different languages, and all Western and American and Islamic countries were about to print and publish this book and distribute it. The UK and U.S. espionage services were strong supporters of this filthy mercenary, who placed his entire being at the service of the enemy. In addition to the intelligence and espionage services of Britain and the CIA and the U.S. security services, the Zionists had a direct involvement in the publication and printing of this book.

Reports received state that a Zionist and Jewish publisher placed half a million pounds alone for the start of work at the disposal of this affiliated agent and pawn of the CIA and the Royal Academy of Literature has placed half- a-million pounds at the disposal of this pseudo-lackey, this filthy human being, so that such a blasphemous and deceptive work would be written by him.

After he wrote this book with his deviationist pen, all the Zionist companies in Britain and the U.S. have invested in publishing this book, aiming for a wide circulation. An ordinary book which has no backing gets published and distributed with limited sales and within a limited environment. Look how much the U.S. has invested in the publication and production of this book: They have published this book and have made sure that it should have the highest possible distribution and sales. They put to work all (?organizations). And they translated this in all countries, into many languages.

They wanted to implement the last stage—and if they had done this it would have meant that this book would have been translated into Italian so that it could also be published in a large scale in Italy. It becomes clear what a blow our enemies have received from Islam. The depth of Islam's strength is clarified and determined for us by these U.S. and UK moves and by the whole world of arrogant powers in this connection, because we see that they have used all their power and strength to publish and print this corrupt and evil book. But we thank God that he has made our enemy so ignorant and stupid. We thank God that, by this means, all the Muslim and non-Muslim nations, nations that are oppressed, the free people of the world, are clearly realizing the ugly and vile face of the colonialists and exploiters and arrogance and global blasphemy. Now they can identify this face.

Today you see that the Western world, the advanced world of the 20th Century which brags about civilization and the elimination of racial discrimination; boasts about this and raises these issues on the international scene, in international organization such as the UN, the human rights organization, Amnesty International; and any organization that has a voice on the international scene; which outwardly protests and works against countries that follow a racial discrimination policy and apartheid—you see that they do this only for appearances sake. But who are the ringleaders? They are the proud superpowers. They come and condemn South Africa for its racism, but this is only an outward gesture. They come and condemn the Zionists in the form of an outward gesture. Why? Because in Israel's system—no, because within the Zionist system of government, there exists racial discrimination because they say is that they, the Jews, are the superior race and the rest of the world should be either at our service or our slaves. [passage omitted]

Therefore, the world outwardly rejects arguments and policies based on racial discrimination. Judging from the way the filthy agent Salman Rushdie is being defended by the United States, Britain, and the East and West—unfortunately, also by some mercenary Islamic figures in Europe and in some other countries—this precisely proves the racial discrimination argument and it reveals the ugly and dirty face of the world of anti-Islam. It shows that they are moving precisely on the basis of the principles of racial discrimination.

One of the greatest insults which this individual—it makes me ashamed to even name him—included in his book is the portrayal of Balal Habashi—that freedom-loving human being, that great humane figure in the history of man, who had a warm heart, contrary to the color of his skin which is black [phrase as heard], a human being whose lofty spirit is greater than the earth and higher than the heavens—in a highly offensive manner. Truly, our hearts bleed; he portrays Balal as a black demon. This is a sign of the depth of their prejudice and that of the United States and the West toward Islam. This is the way he has treated a great personality whose lofty spirit is higher than all the superpowers. [passage omitted]

There are many libelous statements about the Koran and many insults. There are so many insults to the esteemed prophet, portraying him as a normal and ordinary man; insults to and abuse of the sacred character of the highly esteemed prophet of Islam. The author ridicules Koranic verses, deeply wounding the hearts of the world's pious people. Today the pagans and infidels have picked up a dagger and aimed it at the heart of the esteemed prophet. What should the Muslims do? Should we sit and watch? Should the Muslim world merely observe the acts of

treason and crime in this dirty world which is full of inhumanity and infidels, where many people live in various countries and organizations [as heard] and are totally devoid of any humanity?

When this book was published we witnessed a spontaneous reaction in various countries of the world. [passage omitted] Why has world arrogance committed this crime? First, it wants to test us. It wants to find out the spirit of Muslims, this vast world of Muslims, more than 1 billion in population. This is the test that they want to carry out, in order to see the reaction of the Muslims in the face of a confrontation. Do they sit still and merely watch? [passage omitted] Or is the movement of Islamic nations and the Islamic revolution reminiscent of 'Ashura and Husayn [reference to the third Shi'ite imam who fought the enemies of Islam and was martyred on 'Ashura]? It is a movement which involves an uprising, inflicting a blow to all the superpowers, world arrogance, and all the enemies of humanity, Islam, the Koran, and the prophet. This blow is delivered through the blood of Muslim, through their martyrdom and their iron fists. [crowd chants support]

It is natural that the second form is the real choice for the Muslim nations. We witnessed instances of this today and yesterday. Throughout Iran our cities and villages have been enflamed with anger against the enemies of Islam. The people's patience has run out and they do not know how to express their feelings. This mood has surfaced throughout the world has achieved revenge, this shameless and devious move by the enemies of Islam—such as the United States and all the book's Zionist publishers—they will not rest. [crowd chants support] [passage omitted]

We need a kind of response to make global blasphemy and the infidels realize that Islam is too powerful for them to combat or to move and act against.

Today the imam, with a move worthy of a prophet and with the type of leadership which makes him the leader of the Islamic world, ended the Muslim world's wait for a reaction from their leader. They had all been waiting to be informed about the imam's opinion, decree, and edict in these sensitive circumstances. [crowd chants "The imam's decree must be implemented"] God willing, it will be implemented.

All dependent mercenary elements, all those who had a role in the publication of this misleading and distorted book, the author and everyone else, must be executed. These executions, with God's help, will be carried out by the revolutionary offspring of Hezbollah the world over. [crowd chants support]

Another of our enemy's aims in publishing this book is to begin a new war against Islam and the Islamic revolution in the world. As it had been defeated on the battlefield, it devised futile plans and sought to enter a war in a different arena: in the field of propaganda against Islam, the Koran, and the prophet. This move opens another battlefront against Islam; naturally, the frontline of defense of Islam is occupied by the Islamic revolution and its great leader Imam Khomeyni. [crowd chants support] This war has begun today.

It is with regret that I must say that there are those whose shameless existence depends on the support of the superpowers and backing from East and West. They have remained silent in the face of this terrifying crime. [passage omitted]

The imam personally issued the divine decree. For the first time, he issued a death sentence, something he has never done in the 90 [figure as heard] years of his blessed life. Never before had he personally issued a death sentence for anyone. But you can see how distressing this conspiracy is to the imam. You can understand how horrifying this crime and this act of treason is. It broke the heart of the imam of the time [imam-e zaman] very much; it has led to great sorrow for Muslims. [passage omitted]

This meeting is taking place in order to commemorate the pioneers of this struggle, that is the Muslim people of Pakistan, both Shi'ites and Sunnis, those dear and brave ones. When their patience ran out, they stood up. They identified the enemy correctly. They fully realized that the United States and the English Royal Institute [organization as heard] were hidden behind the inauspicious face of that book's author. I must point out that, according to our tradition, at the end of the world the anti-Christ [dajjal] will come. Its donkey will be wearing makeup and jewelry, attracting the companions of the infidels and blasphemy for the purpose of waging a battle against righteousness. [sentence as heard] During the last 40 years we have seen the role of anti-Christ being played by colonialism in all aspects. Colonialism has had a role in all conspiracies waged against Muslims and its inauspicious child—the United States—has followed in its footsteps. [passage omitted]

As in today that we see that the book's author is in England, but the real supporter is the United States. The English Royal Institute is the publisher of this book but the book has been extensively published by various publishers and organizations in the United States and then distributed by the CIA's agents in all countries. The United States—this arrogant superpower, this regime which has been defeated by the Islamic revolution—supports this move of the colonialists, this dastardly move. Who shed the blood of Pakistani Muslims? The Muslim nation of Pakistan, after realizing the dimensions of this ploy by England and the United States, began their movement and demonstrated. In order to express their anger, they marched to the U.S. Cultural Center in Islamabad. One brave Pakistani Muslim youth tried to lower the blasphemous U.S. flag but he was shot dead by the armed guards at the cultural center. Then the Muslim people became angry and attacked, which led to

a clash with U.S. Marines and with the police. More than five people were martyred and tens of people were injured and hospitalized. [passage omitted]

Protest Lodged With Netherlands

NC1702062889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Following the Netherlands foreign minister's statement on Imam Khomeyni's religious decree regarding the author of "The Satanic Verses," the Netherlands ambassador in Tehran was summoned to the Foreign Ministry yesterday afternoon and received a strong protest on the improper and illogical position of his country's foreign minister.

Mr Larijani, deputy foreign minister for European and American affairs, told the Netherlands ambassador to Iran: On the one hand, the Netherlands officials claim that freedom of speech and belief should be defended, but on the other hand, they ask why His Holiness Imam Khomeyni has expressed his view, which is his canonical decree concerning the author of "The Satanic Verses?" This is an extremely contradictory and ridiculous position. Is the Netherlands Government not aware that the canonical decree of the imam is accepted by more than 1 billion Muslims throughout the world and that the views of all Islamic sects concur on this? How can one advocate respect for human rights on the one hand, and on the other, be indifferent to the insult against the holiest belief of more than 1 billion people in the world?

Mr Larijani pointed out that The Netherlands and the other Western countries should realize that the more hostile their position on the imam's dictum and the Islamic sanctities of 1 billion Muslims, the more they will be endangering themselves among the Muslims and will be harming their own interests throughout the Islamic world.

Mr Larijani stated in this meeting that Western governments should prevent insults to Islamic sanctities in their countries, and warned that the Islamic world will display the necessary reaction toward any insult to its sanctities.

Italian Publishers Threatened

AU1702115889 Rome ANSA in English 1020 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] (ANSA) Rome Feb 17—In the event the book "The Satanic Verses" is published in Italy, the death sentence against the Anglo-Indian author Salman Rushdie would be extended to the executives of the Italian publishing house as "this is the law of God; this is the wish of the Iman Khomeyni", according to the Iranian ambassador to the Holy See, Salman Qafari in an interview to the monthly "30 Giorni", (30 Days), which released excerpts today.

The diplomat also said that the pope certainly knew better than anyone else how to intervene with Mondadori publishing house and the Italian Government to block publication of the "blasphemous" work in Italy. The pope had the power to do so because of his great spiritual influence, Qafari said.

Asked if there were members of the Muslim community in Italy ready to carry out the death sentence, Qafari replied: "I hope so. In any case, there will certainly be protests here like there were in England", he said.

The ambassador also asked how the pope could possibly consider an appeal to block publication of the book or accept an instigation to murder. [sentence as received] His answer was that those acquainted with the sacred texts of the monotheistic religions would not find this hard to understand.

In this context he cited death sentences handed down in the Jewish Torah against those who commit murder or adultery. The crime committed by the Anglo-Indian writer was much more serious than adultery which had only a personal dimension, while Rusdhie's sin took on a social dimension, the Iranian ambassador argued.

The interview noted that in the biblical account, Jesus intervened to save a woman condemned to be stoned to death for adultery: the famous "cast the first stone" episode. Qafari said that this may have been because Jesus nourished some doubt about her guilt, but that in any case, Islamic law was not unduly harsh. Those who offend in a fit of rage, or unknowingly, do not commit a sin and are pardoned, he said. "Islam accepts criticism", he added.

"Isn't this book a criticism?" The interviewer asked.

The reply: "No, it is a plot by the British and American Satan that wants to offend our religion. "This is inexcusable. [quotation marks as received] "No, that writer must die", the ambassador said.

Asked if he would be willing to commit the murder, Qafari said "Yes, as God's law is clearcut". "But why do you find this strange?" he asked, puzzled.

UK Envoy Issues Denial

LD1602140689 Tehran IRNA in English 1330 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 16, IRNA—British Charge d'Affaires Nicholas Browne today denied any connection between the London Government and the publication of the blasphemous novel "The Satanic Verses".

"The publication and printing of the novel concerns only its author and publisher and has nothing to do with the London government," he reiterated.

The British Government had not printed the book, nor did it know about its content, the British charge d'affaires told head of the Foreign Ministry's 15th Department Mohammad Musavian.

On Tuesday [14 February], the leader of the Islamic revolution sanctioned the killing of Salman Rushdie, the Muslim Indian-born author of the sacriligious novel and its publishers for insulting the sanctities of Muslims.

In his message to the Muslim world, Imam Khomeyni said "Salman Rushdie who has written against Islam, the Holy Koran and Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) [peace be upon him] and those involved in its publication who knew its content are sanctioned to death."

The British ambassador claimed his country attached great importance to Muslims' affairs and held their religion in high reverence but the order for the killing of the author and publisher of the book who are both British nationals was not understandable.

Imam Khomeyni has also called on the brave youth in the Muslim world to execute Rushdie wherever they find him, saying "those killed in trying to execute Rushdie willing, be a martyr."

Underlining the need to preserve normal relations between Tehran and London, Browne expressed hope that the event would not adversely affect mutual ties.

He also thanked Tehran police for protecting the British Embassy during a peaceful demonstration staged by thousands of people in front of the embassy yesterday in protest the publication of the blasphemous novel. The demonstrator shouted "Death to Britain, "Death to the U.S." and "Death to Israel."

A resolution read at the end of the rally strongly criticized the London government and called for the implementation of the imam's decree for the author and publisher of the novel.

UK Reacts to Threats

LD1602184889 Tehran IRNA in English 1736 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] London, Feb. 16, IRNA—The British Foreign Office released a statement Thursday, announcing a temporary shelving of its diplomatic build-up in Iran, in the aftermath of the controversy over the highly slanderous novel "The Satanic Verses."

Though the statement admitted that Muslims and others may have "strong views" about the insulting book but said the fatwah [edict] on the apostate's life according to its reasoning was "unacceptable."

Imam Khomeyni terming the whole thing as a plot Tuesday sanctioned death penalty for Indian-born British author Salman Rushdie and all others involved in the publication of "The Satanic Verses" fully aware of its slanderous contents. In Islam, apostacy is punishable by death.

The announcement followed diplomatic meetings in Tehran and London between respective charge d'affaires and Foreign Ministries and comes after two days of silence from the British Government. The Foreign Office only said "in the present circumstances we cannot build up further our embassy in Tehran."

A spokesman explained that the freeze in relations was taken unilaterally and would apply only to the British Embassy in Tehran, which would be kept at 3 diplomats and one staff. It would not effect the build-up of the Iranian mission in London as agreed in November.

Commenting on the government's moves, Conservative Member of Parliament Cyril Townsend said that it was not in British interests to cut relations with Iran.

Cautious, careful consideration was needed, he said and went on to praise the soft approach from Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, that could pay benefits in the weeks to come.

Townsend formed part of the parliamentary delegation's visit to Iran last year that led to a restoration of ties, and he dismissed suggestions that the government's limited response was a sign of weakness.

The MP pointed out that every other European country had been able to build up a working relationship with Iran and that Britain should be able to do the same.

The satanic work which openly insults Islam, the holy Koran and prophets (PBUT) [peace be upon them] has caused uproar among world Muslims, and smells of deliberate mischief judging from what a London daily disclosed today.

The DAILY EXPRESS said that Rushdie while working on the novel not only changed his wife to an American [as received] (novelist Marianne Wiggins) but also his agent and publishers.

Interference Claim 'Dismissed'

LD1602190789 Tehran IRNA in English 1758 GMT 16 Feb 89

["Imam's Fatwah More Important Than Bilateral Ties, Says Envoy"—IRNA headline]

[Text] London, Feb. 16, IRNA—Iran's charge d'affaires in London, Medhi Akhundzadeh-Basti has dismissed the British Government's claim that Iran was interfering in its internal affairs.

Imam Khomeyni is a religious leader of the Islamic world and the issue of his "fatwah" on the punishment of Salman Rushdie was "much more important than relations between two countries," he retorted.

The envoy was responding Thursday to the Foreign Ministry's claim that the Islamic pronouncement on the Indian-born British author was "unacceptable' and contrary to last November's understanding between the two countries of non-interference in each other's affairs.

As religious leader, the imam had examined the case against Rushdie and his slanderous book "The Satanic Verses" with great care and issued his important fatwah, which was absolutely not against Britain or British sovereignty, he said. "If this person was in any other country, it would have made no difference to the (imam's) decree."

Akhundzadeh-Basti said that he told the new assistant Foreign Office under-secretary, David Gore-Booth in their meeting Thursday, that the named author had insulted the basic beliefs of over 1 billion Muslims worldwide.

Further, his scurrilous book had offended all monotheist religions and cost the lives of Muslims, a reference to the gunning down of Muslim demonstrators in Pakistan and India.

The book is a venomous attack on Islam and all values Muslims hold dear, and last Tuesday Imam Khomeyni sanctioned death penalty for the evil author and all those involved in the publication of "The Satanic Verses" fully aware of its insulting contents.

Apostasy is punishable by death in Islam, and a million dollar price has been placed on the head of Rushdie by Hojjat ol-Eslam Sane'i the head of the 15th Khordad charity foundation, which seems to have created misunderstanding in Britain.

"We believe that this book should be withdrawn immediately and its publication halted forthwith," reiterated Akhundzadeh-Basti, and said Iran was "surprised that this had not been done so far."

Martyrs Group To Visit Pakistan

LD1602120889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] A delegation representing the imam's representative on the Martyrs' Foundation, who is also the supervisor of the foundation, is to visit Pakistan next week to examine the situation of the families of the lofty martyrs of the demonstrations of the Muslim people of Pakistan against the blasphemous book, "The Satanic Verses". The delegation will also study ways of placing these esteemed families under the care of the Martyrs' Foundation.

In announcing this move, the officer in charge of the international relations of the Martyrs Foundation added: In performing its great mission to attend to the affairs of the great families of the martyrs, as well as those who received injuries while defending Islamic sanctities, the Martyrs Foundation deems it its duty to extend its concern to the great martyrs of Islam all over the world.

Qom Ceremony for 'Martyrs'

NC1702072889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that the Pakistani, Indian, and Bengali scholars and clergymen residing in Qom organized an auspicious memorial ceremony at the Imam Montazar School in Qom for the valuable martyrs of the recent demonstrations by Muslims in Pakistan and India and in protest against the publication and propagation of the insulting "The Satanic Verses."

During this ceremony scholar Syed Sajjad 'Ali Naqvi, leader of the Ja'fari sect and of the Shi'ites of Pakistan, praised the recent martyrs of Pakistani and Indian Muslims who protested against this new and joint plot by the Great Satan, the United States, and international Zionism to insult the sacred integrity of the great prophet of Islam, peace be upon him and his scion, he said: The criminal United States, which has suffered consecutive and heavy defeats on the political, military, and economic fronts following the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, perpetrated this unforgiveable crime in a bid to distort the true face of Islam.

He also stressed the need for the unity of the Muslims throughout the world, and especially the Muslims of Pakistan. Scholar Syed Sajjad 'Ali Naqvi also emphasized the need to refrain from any type of discord and dichotomy, and pointed out: We will not allow the land of Pakistan to become the base on which the superpowers' sinister and satanic objectives are fulfilled.

Muslim 'Revulsion' Spreads

LD1602175589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Excerpt] The religious verdict issued regarding the author of "The Satanic Verses" and the expression of revulsion by Muslims of the world toward this insulting action of imperialism and Zionism has had extensive repurcussions throughout the Islamic world. Various religious, political, and learned personalities, in statements and interviews, have discussed the profound dimensions of this insult.

According to the report of the Central News Unit, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, the leader of the Islamic Tawhid Movement of Lebanon, referring to the verdict of Imam Khomeyni, called on the Muslims of the world to execute the decree of Imam Khomeyni regarding Salman Rushdie, the mercenary writer of world arrogance, as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

Press on 'Satanic Verses'

LD1602125289 Tehran IRNA in English 1212 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 16, IRNA—Excerpts from morning Persian dailies editorials on Salman Rushdie's blasphemous novel,"The Satanic Verses."

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI: Evidences attest to the fact that it (the publication of the novel) is not an accident but a scheme planned in advance to insult the sanctity of Muslims. That the book was written by a member of the British Royal Literary Society and selected as the book of the year in Britain is by no means incidental but the involvement of British intelligence services in the event can be clearly witnessed.

Arrogance wants to assess the reaction of the Islamic world in this regard so that if there were no serious and effective reaction it could continue the move in a more extensive demension.

It is important to note that followers of all divine religions should protest to any insult to divine religions and naturally this wave of protest coupled with efforts to prevent repetition of such mischiefs should be spread to other religions as well and be regarded as a divine task.

Another point of significance is that rational and accepted procedures should be adapted in countering these problems as to avoid any damage to the sanctity and respect of the principle.

The goal is clear: to prevent repetition of any insult to sanctities of divine religions and especially to the holy Quran and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) [peace be upon him].

Imam Khomeyni reiterated in his sanction (issued Tuesday) that anyone killed in carrying out the verdict is a martyr. But if some people, even with good intentions, set forth other issues and decide awards for the implementation of this religious ruling, instead of adding to the significance of the issue they would have harmed the sanctity of the move.

The Islamic world must stop any insult to the sanctities of Muslims and prevent repetition of such incidents through any possible means and via international Islamic organisations.

This, of course, does not mean to strip Muslims of their responsibility as they are duty-bound to act even individually to extinguish the fire of conspiracies against Islam and its sanctities.

Furthermore, as Ayatollah Montazeri reminded, the 'ulema and Muslim scholars are bestowed with a heavy responsibility in the regard and should enter the scene to counter any delusion.

ABRAR: There is no doubt that our negligence and weak cultural work revealed itself more clearly than ever before.

We have experienced this fact that even the worst wars will eventually come to an end and what brings a final victory is to emerge victorious in the campaign against cultural domination.

In fact, the novel "The Satanic Verses" was published in London a few months ago. But later all its copies were collected following the outcry of Islamic centers and 1.5 million British Muslims and finally its new publication was banned. To this end, the role of the Organization of the Islamic Conference should not be ignored.

But, it was only the beginning since the global arrogance employed a new ploy to publish the novel in the U.S. and other countries and distribute it even in Muslim states.

If we consider the weakness of our cultural work in this regard as self-criticism we should ask what has been the role of our embassies and cultural centers abroad.

Our weak cultural activities not only caused the issue to last so long but also accounted for the publication of the novel in such high circulation.

The weakness of our overseas cultural centers, too, accounted for our late reaction to the issue. The weakness of our cultural and publicity work helped global arrogance to suppress Muslim protestors in the U.S. and Europe.

The time is that of cultural and propaganda campaign. We could have foiled both the adverse effects of the satanic novel and the sinister plot against Islam.

The imam's decree of death penalty to the author of the blasphemous novel served to awaken Muslims against the danger posed by global arrogance against Islam. This must be a warning to political and cultural officials at home and abroad in particular.

Montazeri Rejects Policy of 'Foreign Borrowing'

LD1702124589 Tehran IRNA in English 1210 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 17, IRNA—The designated future leader of the Islamic Republic has come out strongly against foreign borrowing to finance part of Iran's reconstruction plans and instead called on the government to give the private sector a free hand.

"If we start thinking about foreign borrowing it would mean selling the country to foreigners," Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri warned Thursday [16 February].

"Political and cultural dependence on abroad would be the first result" of receiving loans from foreign governments and institutions which were avoided even during the difficult conditions of the war, he added.

The ayatollah, speaking in Qom to a gathering of representatives from the country's bazaars, said the government should seek help from the people instead of looking for foreign support. "The government should allow the people to have a free hand in trade and eliminate harsh restrictions and administrative restrictions."

He stressed that bazaar tradesmen "honestly carried out their Islamic duties" and supported the government particularly during the war.

The government should guide and supervise private trade and in this case "the country would progress and flourish in various fields."

"The government cannot be a good businessman... it is commiting a big mistake by taking over trade affairs which brings a lot of harm for the society, even if the government wishes well."

He said the authorities should learn from their counterparts in the Soviet Union who after 70 years had come to the conclusion that the nationalization of trade affairs was the cause of economic backwardness.

While pointing out that attacks on the bazaar was an indication of critics' lack of knowledge of current conditions, the ayatollah also called on the bazaar to weed out profiteers and hoarders. Such individuals should be "severely dealt with and punished," he said.

On the current wide-spread anti-narcotics drive, Ayatollah Montazeri stressed that if the campaign failed to recognize poverty and unemployment as the root cause of social corruption it would fail. "It is good to fight against narcotics but the campaign must be fundamental," he said.

When there were three to four million people out of work, shortages of goods, and growing inflation, social corruption could not be effectively eliminated. "First the country's trade must be healthy and the society's economic strength must grow and then other issues will become rights."

More on Address to Guilds

LD1702133589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Members of the Islamic societies of the guilds from all over the country met grand Ayatollah Montazeri yesterday at Qom. We start the news report this hour by broadcasting the full text of the remarks by the deputy leader at the meeting:

[Correspondent] According to the Central News Unit report referring to the fact that law making in the divine religions is in accord with the spiritual as well as material needs of the human being, Montazeri recalled: There may well be as many as 80 theological books in Islam which concern humanity's social, economic, political, and penal issues. As to prayers, there are only five or six books. This signifies the need to provide for the various requirements of human beings. [passage omitted]

The deputy leader said: Praying in submission concerns the satisfaction of the spiritual needs of human beings. To provide for their material needs, God has established such branches as production, industry, and commerce. These are provided so that society may use them to satisfy its needs.

Stating that the basis of production, industry, and commerce in the society must be strengthened, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said that it is not enough merely to arrest and confront criminals in an effort to fight poverty and unemployment—the infrastructure of social ills. It is first of all necessary to stress the importance of production, agriculture, and animal husbandry. We have an abundance of land and water and we must raise productivity. We must strengthen the sound basis of commerce and industry; otherwise, one cannot stop such ills as narcotics and prostitution. The government must provide the necessary grounds and facilities to bring about a boom in agricultural production, industry, and commerce.

The government must also provide the necessary and suitable guidelines. Unnecessary strictness with regard to customs and elsewhere must be prevented as such an attitude deters people from the very basis of trade and commerce. We must create incentives to engage in productive work, in industry, and commerce, to encourage people to work. If the government decides to take up the helm of production, and commerce, not only will it be unable to perform its basic functions, but it will also be forced to employ an increasing number of personnel. Such employees will not work eagerly and with necessary interest. Naturally, other ills would follow; tradesmen and vendors would lose their livelihood and would be forced to turn to smuggling and the like. He stressed: We must not repeat the mistakes of other countries. [passage omitted]

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: We must base our planning on the assumption that our economy must thrive without oil. God willing, soon our economy will sever its dependence on oil. God willing, our commerce, industry, and agriculture will rise to such a level that they will provide for all our domestic needs. In such a case, we will be able to collect sufficient funds through taxes; otherwise, in the absence of a booming commerce, industry, and agriculture, how can one collect taxes and fight against narcotics? If there is no employment and trade, the people will turn to smuggling out of necessity. [passage omitted]

Continuing his remarks, the deputy to the leadership added: You may note that during the revolution, when strikes were widespread the bazaar and the merchants made contributions to the cause in addition to giving assistance to the needy. The bazaar and the merchants

also made great contributions after the revolution, during the war, and behind the lines, and these contributions are worthy of appreciation.

Now we expect them to pay attention to the letter of Hazrat Amir ['Ali, the first Shi'ite imam] to Malek Ashtar [letter from 'Ali to the governor of Egypt in which he articulates a number of ethical rules on trade and business] and take it upon themselves to comply with the principles of fairness and justice in commerce. We expect the bazaar and merchants not to think of excessive profits, of hoarding, and of dealing on the black market. [passage omitted]

He called on the merchants, vendors, and specifically the Islamic societies of the bazaars and guilds to take it upon themselves to reprimand and punish the profiteers and hoarders. He called on them to ostracize such profiteers and hoarders if such measures are not effective.

Referring to the question of borrowing from abroad, the deputy to the leadership stressed: Borrowing from abroad is wrong. It will undermine the faith as well as the dignity of the revolution. It will bring about dependency by the country on the outside world in all cultural, political, and economic spheres. Where were these people—who now are swarming our country to help us in so-called reconstruction—when we were engaged in the war and suffering hardships? They were not ready to help us then in the smallest way. Now they are only thinking of their own interests.

Rather than thinking in terms of borrowing from abroad, we must think of providing incentives for the people and for the active forces inside the country; we must think of bringing about booming conditions for industry, agriculture, animal breeding, correct planning, and the elimination of discouraging regulations. As far as land, water, resources, mines, and talent are concerned, our country is richer than many of the advanced countries of the world; and yet our population is smaller. If we manage to engage in correct planning, if the government and the people help each other rather than weakening each other, if every responsiblity is entrusted to qualified persons, our country would certainly achieve at self-sufficiency soon.

In conclusion, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri prayed for victory of Islam, failure of the conspiracies of the enemies of Islam, longevity and health for the imam of the ummah, and success of the authorities in serving the people.

Editorial Supports Montazeri

NC1702145189 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 13 Feb 89 p 2

[From the "Opinion" column: "Ayatollah Montazeri Draws Officials' Attention to Problems"]

[Text] In a memorable audience with a group of people on the occasion of the 10 Days of Dawn ceremony, Grand Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri bravely touched on past mistakes stressing that reconstruction must begin from within the country's management centers.

It is a fact, a bitter one though, that in the past decade, we busied ourselves with sloganeering, rather than taking action. Instead of valuing the people and securing their active presence in the arena of national struggle, we added to popular dissent and actually pushed such a powerful force into isolation. This trend, if not checked, will shove the country to a point where it will have to take steps contrary to what was originally preached.

The future leader of the Islamic revolution also lashed out at censorship and monopoly of political power in the country, warning against their dire consequences if continued.

A serious peril to the Bahman 22, 1357 (February 11, 1979) Islamic revolution has been attempts to offer an aggrandized picture of the performance of the country's management cadres, overlooking shortcomings and brushing aside and virtually blocking constructive criticism. We should be frank in evaluating our past performances. Serious and profound investigation will be neededn in order to see whether or not Iran has succeeded in attaining the revolution's goal and fulfilling its pledges and promises.

A more critical problem, however, is the absence of an approach, based on principles, to Ayatollah Montazeri's realistic viewpoints. This failure stems from yet another problem of apprehending dimensions, i.e. the multiplicity of decision-making centers in the country.

As such, rational remarks of the revered ayatollah have only been confined to the pages of the print media without ever being translated into action. Although the ayatollah urgently calls for a serious and all-pervasive redirection in Iran, no practical measures have been yet proposed to implement his valuable guidelines. This is a cause for ample regret.

There are, however, still great resources at our disposal. The leader of the revolution is still with us. The revolutionary zeal of the people is still there and needs only to be properly tapped. And last but not least, there is this strong wind blowing in the country from a realistic corner, i.e. a change in viewpoint to see realities for what they are and not what we would like them to be.

Under the tenets of Islam once we take note and act upon such valuable resources we can still do a lot to redress our problems. The time is now or never.

'Economic Independence' Urged

NC1702153789 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 12 Feb 89 p 2

[From the "Opinion" column: "Islamic Revolution After a Decade of Experience"]

[Text] Yesterday millions of people took to the streets to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran. The magnitude of the processions was so overpowering and magnificent that it was a reminder of February 11, 1979 that marked the victory of the Islamic revolution.

The revolution whose popular support is unrivaled in the history of the world's revolutions comprises two parts. The first part consisted of efforts to topple the despotic regime of the shah. His objective materialized on February 11, 1979 with the participation of people from all walks of life. The success can only by attributed to the unity of the people and the wise leadership of the revolution.

Even the foreign and domestic enemies of the Islamic revolution have had to give credit to tactics utilized by the people and the leadership of the revolution. The Islamic revolution's achievements in this aspect have unanimously been hailed by sociologists and researchers despite ceaseless attempts by some of them to smear the Islamic revolution.

The second phase of the Islamic revolution has been to replace the previous system of government with a new and more efficient one that could bring about drastic changes in various spheres of life in the country. Unlike the first objective, the attainment of the second goal met with various obstacles due to the fact that domestic and foreign enemies of the Islamic revolution spared no effort to impede progress along this line. It must be noted that negative external parameters coupled wuith the narrow-mindedness displayed by some of Islamic Iran's authorities doubled the problems. One such impediment was the premeditated Iraqi war that obviously faced the Islamic revolution with many constraints and problems.

At any rate, the Islamic revolution has so far succeeded in preserving its political-cultural independence. Yet, the achievement of economic independence has proven to be the most difficult of all. Now unless Islamic Iran succeeds in attaining economic independence, one must realistically be aware of the dangers posed for the political and cultural gains of the revolution. Therefore, the Islamic Republic's officials should spare no effort in devising ways to best utilize the great potential of the revolution, i.e. the unceasing presence of the people at the national level on the political scene.

Once properly channeled and used, this great force is clearly capable of removing the hurdles in the way of the country's economic independence before it is too late.

In fact, the country and its Islamic revolution do not have all the time in the world. Basic steps, not backward ones, must be taken swiftly as we cannot give in to any procrastinations. A too little too late attitude will be disastrous for the nation. The war has now ground to a halt and will hopefully be terminated by a lasting peace. As such, the decisionmakers will not be forgiven their mistakes and shortcomings if they fail to take the right course of action.

Resumption of Flights to Kuwait Proposed

LD1602202989 Tehran IRNA in English 1508 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, Feb. 16, IRNA—Iran Air and Kuwaiti Airlines are discussing resumption of flights between Iran and Kuwait according to the head of Iran Air bureau in Kuwait, Mohammad Reza Sheykh Emami here Thursday.

Iran Air has proposed that flights be re-established between Kuwait and a number of Iranian cities, including Tehran and Shiraz, and the Kuwaiti airline is considering resumption of its passenger flights to Tehran and Abadan, Khuzestan Province. Flights between the two countries discontinued during the Iraq-Iran war.

Departing Angolan Envoy Meets With Velayati

NC1602102089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Yesterday, at the conclusion of his tour of duty, the Angolan envoy accredited to Iran met our country's foreign minister. He conveyed greetings on behalf of the officials and people of Angola on the 10th anniversary of the Islamic revolution's victory to the officials and people of Iran and expressed the hope for a greater broadening of ties between the two countries. Mr Velayati expressed support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the struggle of the Angolan people against the racist South African regime. He also welcomed the signing of the tripartite peace accord and expressed the hope that under the aegis of this accord, Namibia will be able to attain independence at the specified time.

Mr Velayati asserted Iran's willingness to extend assistance to the Angolan nation to eliminate apartheid and congratulated the envoy and his country's officials, on the appointment of the new Angolan foreign minister.

Economic, Finance Minister Visits Malaysia

For coverage of the week-long visit of Mohammad Javad Iravani, economic affairs and finance minister, to Malaysia, including the signing of a memorandum of understanding at the Malaysian Foreign Ministry, see the Malaysia section of the 16 February East Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Interior Minister Comments on Anti-Drug Measures

LD1602224189 Tehran IRNA in English 1759 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 16, IRNA—The interior minister today reiterated Iran's readiness for cooperation with any country for fighting drug trafficking.

Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi said that Iran's new drive to eradicate drug trafficking has cut the number of addicts and traffickers as well as disproved counter claims against the Islamic Government.

He said the newly-established anti-drug headquarters has drawn up a long term plan for fighting drug trafficking.

Some 175 smugglers long since on the wanted list were hanged and tens of tons of narcotics were seized from international rings since a stricter anti-drug law took effect in Iran on January 21.

Under the new law, all addicts in Iran have six months to give up their habit defaulting which they will be prosecuted on same charges.

In point of law addiction is a criminal offence in Iran.

Drugs Seized in Revolution Committee Maneuvers
LD1602214789 Tehran IRNA in English 1857 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Tehran, Feb. 16, IRNA—Seven narcotics-distribution gangs were destroyed over the past 25 days, 1421 drug-traffickers arrested, and 1171 kgs of narcotics, 31 fire-arms, and 48 vehicles were seized by the Islamic revolution's committeemen.

Announcing the above at a press conference here Thursday on the occasion of the week-long Val'adiat maneuvers, deputy intelligence and operational commander of the Islamic Revolution's Committee's (IRC) Mahmud Mirlohi added "during this period the cases of 7358 addicts have been completed, and they have been kept under control by the IRC to quit their habit." [passage omitted] Over 500 kgs of various drugs were seized from 900 drug traffickers since Sunday. Val'adiat maneuvers are to last til February 19 throughout the country.

Steel Complex Starts 'Tentative' Production
LD1602224389 Tehran IRNA in English 1733 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Ahvaz, Feb. 16, IRNA—Ahvaz steel complex here started tentative production of steel bars today. It is to start regular production of iron bars from iron scraps with an annual capacity of at least 500,000 tons in April.

The complex now produces 150 mm by 150 mm steel bars capable of being shaped into plates, or iron rods and beams and manisman pipes at the Ahvaz National Industrial Group.

Argument Over 'Secret' Budget Bill Continues
PMD1402164189 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 30 Jan 89 p 2

[Editorial by Ahmad Tavakkoli, author of 24 January RESALAT article on a "secret" budget bill, in response to 26 January ETTELA'AT article by Deputy Prime Minister Mohajerani]

[Text] Last Thursday's ETTELA'AT carried on page 2 an article written by the respected Deputy Prime Minister Mr Mohajerani who is in charge of legal and parliamentary affairs. The article entitled "The Not Secret Bill" was in reply to the article printed in RESALAT entitled "The Secret Bill."

The article entitled "Secret Bill," which was printed in RESALAT the previous Tuesday, talked about an amendment to the 1988 budget which has been presented to the Majlis. This article gave no details on the bill itself, but criticized the fact that the bill was labled "confidential and secret." The article gave some reasons why the bill should be discussed in Majlis' open session. It also said that if the government or several Majlis members wanted to hold a closed session to review the bill, this must be done in accordance with Article 69 of the Constitution and Majlis internal regulations. Instead of using logic, Mr Mohajerani insulted and made accusations against the RESALAT newspaper, Majlis deputies, and the article's author.

Several points must be made with regard to the issue:

1. The respected deputy prime minister claimed at the beginning of his article that the budget bill amendment was not labeled confidential. This is quite amazing that something about which the entire Majlis is aware is being denied so strongly. I think this is probably why, in the last section of his article, he contradicts the first part of his article and says that the bill is confidential. He writes: "This is how a secret and confidential bill is printed in one of the country's newspapers." Of course, as we read on, we see why the accusation that we printed a secret bill is baseless.

2. Mr Mohajerani knows well that the job of a newspaper is to find and then print news. When the Majlis was handed the budget bill amendment and asked to look into it immediately, several deputies, even some favoring the government, strongly attacked the government in their preliminary discussions. It was obvious that the newspaper then try to get hold of the bill and in doing so naturally discovered that, for the first time in the Islamic Republic's history, a confidential bill had been handed to the Majlis deputies, something not seen even during 8 years of war. We did not need deputies to find out about the secret nature of the bill. So much for the respected deputy prime minister's openly accusing Majlis deputies of giving away state secrets and accusing RESALAT of printing them.

3. The respected deputy prime minister claimed in his article that 2 years age RESALAT printed the confidential reports of the Ministry of Plan and Budget. This accuation is not new. In 1986, RESALAT acted in accordance with its religious and revolutionary duties and printed parts of the 1984 financial report presented by the Ministry of Plan and Budget for the people to see. Accusations were made at that time.

The annual fiscal report is printed every fall in accordance with laws governing planning and budget. This is the task of the Ministry of Plan and Budget, in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and Economy and the Central Bank. Up until 1986, these reports were given to the Majlis, ministries, and other experts. All those wanting to see the report could do so very easily. Of course,

newspapers had access to the report, in accordance with laws governing the press, which specify that newspapers are to find and print news. The 1984 financial report was not confidential and the people who published it did not regard it as secret.

RESALAT, while printing parts of the report, included footnotes criticizing the actions of the government in areas where it thought the action taken was improper. It gave its views for and against the government. The reason some of those who criticized RESALAT were so upset was because the program presented by the Ministry of Plan and Budget reflected the government's erroneous planning. These people were trying to prevent the public from finding out about a government criticizing itself.

4. The author of the ETTELA'AT article quotes the imam's September 1986 address to speakers and writers, urging them to maintain a civil tone and act according to the interests of the nation. The author linked this speech directly to the printing of the 1984 financial report in RESALAT some 4 months before the imam's speech.

RESALAT was the only newspaper to accept the fact that it had been addressed by the imam. It mended its ways in accordance with the wishes of the imam and takes this as a source of pride. The question remains: Which part of the imam's speech proves Mr Mohajerani's claims with regard to RESALAT's printing of the 1984 financial report? Is Mr Mohajerani's tone in his attacks against RESALAT one of friendly advice?

5. This recent example, which was an excuse to bring up old allegations, is also not true. He has claimed that we at RESALAT published a confidential government report. "The Secret Bill" article did not go into detail about the bill itself. We did not give figures and information; we criticized the fact that it was confidential. We then asked: Seven budgets were passed in Majlis public sessions during the peak periods of the war. There also were several amendments to the various budgets during the war. Now, after the cease-fire, after acceptance of Resolution 598, and since the country's return to more normalcy, why should a secret amendment to the annual budget be put foward to the Majlis? A most important military decision dealing with the early release of soldiers from military service was announced this morning to the whole world, which in itself indicates that the regime is moving toward normalcy. Why is it that after 8 years of this government's work, we now have to come face to face with the government's first secret bill?

It is interesting that the 1989 budget was given to the Majlis in the normal way, a few days before the amendment in question, and anyone interested could have obtained a copy. If corrections to a few figures in the current year budget have to remain secret for 3 years, why is it that a few days before that, the budget for the coming year—containing details of political, military, and economic plans, as well as their footnotes—was given openly to the Majlis? Of course, one can only surmise that if the amendment in question had gone through in secret, perhaps the 1989 budget would have suffered the same fate.

The respected deputy prime minister in charge of legal affairs must know that to announce that the government does secret work is not in itself revealing secrets. For example, every year the government, in Article 8 of the current spending budget, puts aside funds for special organizations, such as military or intelligence, and these are called "secret budgets." The Majlis then approves these budgets after discussions. These funds are in the budget every year and no one can claim that the discussions on the amount actually reveals the secrets of those organizations. Not only are there discussions which indicate secret work is being done, but there also are funds put aside for this work.

6. Mr Mohajerani criticized the RESALAT article for mentioning the government's debt and claimed that this is revealing state secrets. He also called the action futile. In the same article, he also said: Looking into the government's economic plans, which have been based on the annual budget, is in the interest of the country.

First of all, as a lawyer he should know which laws are secret and who is responsible for keeping and who is guilty of revealing those secrets. Second, he should cite the law that says the amount of the government's debt to the banking system is confidential. This amount is mentioned time and time again in the speeches of the Majlis deputies when they review the budget and, in any case, would be very easy to find if one looks at the figures in the budget. Third, he should know that the collective debt of the public sector has its real roots in the huge amount of cash that is floating in the private sector, which at the moment is also responsible for the crippling inflation. The major part of this debt is due to the actions of the government in the past few years which have also caused the currency devaluation. This has harmed the poor people and has made the rich richer. To make these facts known is not only not futile, it is aimed at rescuing the poor.

The "Secret Bill" article said exactly the same thing and invited everyone to carry out the law when looking into the budget. The deputy prime minister in charge of legal affairs must not get upset over an invitation to observe the law. Would it not have been better for him to use logic, thereby punishing his brothers and informing the people, instead of comparing RESALAT and the article's author with Teymurtash, the traitor, and insulting Majlis deputies? The way to resolve the country's problems is to bring some of the officials face to face with realities. Getting angry, insulting people, and creating a bad atmosphere regarding the free press and Majlis deputies will not stop them from investigating the government, nor will it stop them from saying what is best for the country.

7. Unfortunately, from 1986 onward and even before then, nearly all of the country's statistical reports were printed as a matter of course by various organizations. Some of them have been sold and printed with "secret," "top secret," and "confidential" stamps all over them. Even though these had to be stored as classified material, some of them were sent out to various places including the press.

In general, it is questionable that organizations that gather statistics are allowed to put a "confidential" stamp on anything that is published, based only upon orders from one source. The most recent and strangest case is the initial figures on the population and urban census, which have been printed with "confidential" stamped across them.

[Passage illegible] Without doubt, the growth of a people and a government depends on the existence and strengthening of such an atmosphere and in this regard, the press plays an important role.

Of course, we see it as our right to defend ourselves in the face of accusations. In the meantime, we say to our brothers: If the mirror truthfully shows you your fault, do not break the mirror, correct yourself.

French Foreign Minister Reviews Relations

NC1002182589 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1517 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Report on interview with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas by unidentified Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran correspondent in Tehran from the "Weekly Report" feature; date not given—recorded; Dumas speaks in French with Persian translation superimposed]

[Text] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas met the president, prime minister, speaker of the Majlis, and foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran during his 1-day visit to Tehran.

This was the first visit by a high-level French official to Tehran since the Islamic revolution. Dumas' 1-day visit to Tehran took place at a time when the Islamic Republic was celebrating its 1st decade. In the past 10 years, Iranian-French relations have undergone numerous vicissitudes. In general, these stemmed from the influence of world oppression's policy of overt and blatant aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran on French foreign policy. The experience of the past 10 years has proved that the Islamic revolution is not a phenomenon to be eliminated from the scene by such plots.

France's efforts to compensate for its past errors has put this country's diplomacy to a new test. Only practical adherence to its professed policy and sincerity in its conduct in the sphere of bilateral relations and international issues can bring about a greater understanding between the two countries. Without any doubt, logic dictates that the French officials' deliberate insistence on following a policy of malice against the Islamic revolution in the past 8 years cannot be forgotten overnight. The experiences of the imposed war have shown that there are plausible reasons for taking a cautious attitude toward French Socialists.

However, Dumas' utterances in Tehran display an attempt on the part of French diplomacy to rectify its former attitude to the Islamic revolution. The extent of the tilt toward reality in French foreign policy with regard to the Islamic revolution is the whetstone or standard that will determine the extent of the multilateral growth of relations between the two countries. Undoubtedly, Dumas' visit to Tehran and the categorical remarks by the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the difficulties facing relations between the two countries will have an effective role to play in future relations between Iran and France.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] We are with Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, who is heading a high-level political and economic delegation to Tehran. I thank him for accepting the invitation to appear on the "Weekly Report" feature, and I will now ask him some questions. Mr Dumas: In view of the fact that Your Excellency has recently accepted the foreign affairs portfolio and in view of the errors in French-Iranian relations in the past, I would like to ask you how you see the prospects for the two countries' relations and what plans you have for compensating for these errors.

[Dumas] I came to your country at the invitation of my colleague Dr Velayati, your country's foreign minister. I thought that the time had come when the French foreign minister could visit Iran in order to follow up on the groundwork laid earlier, so that we might embark on talks on the basis of fresh issues regarding the resumption of political relations with the great country of Iran. It was in this frame of mind that we entered into talks with the foreign minister and other Iranian officials; that is, with the president, the prime minister, and the speaker of the Majlis, as well as other cabinet ministers. I came to Iran with an eye to the future, not for a discussion, analysis, or comment on issues of the past.

[Correspondent] Mr Dumas, in current terminology the word "terrorist" has become common and in international terminology it has become a standard term. We have seen that some terrorist groups have been enjoying freedom of action and government support in France. What is the reason for this?

[Dumas] France condemns all forms of terrorism with all its might. I think that the Iranian ruling party will also do the same. The international community also cannot cooperate, in any way, with terrorism as it is an unjustified method which does not merit any support. The targets of terrorism are innocent individuals and there is no objective which can justify terrorist actions. We condemn terrorism and we believe it should be fought wherever it exists and in whatever form.

[Correspondent] Mr Dumas, the issue of human rights is one of the general problems of the world. Within this context there is the problem of apartheid. We see that France is one of the countries that favors the concept of human rights, but it still supports regimes such as that of South Africa. I would like to know the reason for this dual policy. What is the justification for it?

[Dumas] We are celebrating the 200th anniversary of our revolution this year—a revolution which declared support for human rights. Numerous countries were inspired by France. I should say that France does not support South Africa. On the contrary, we have denounced the policy of apartheid and racial discrimination. I personally declared at the United Nations that apartheid is an abhorrent attitude based on the principle of racial segregation. There is no possibility of cooperation with apartheid and one must fight against its instruments. I should say that, like many other countries, we are supporters of human rights. In our opinion, human rights have international value, and talk of human rights is of great importance to all. This is one of the greatest lessons of the Franch Revolution, and it has not become outdated. It is befitting that we should be inspired by it and it is for this reason that we are celebrating the 200th anniversary of the revolution on a grand scale, in France and all over the world. I imagine that many countries would be prepared to participate in our celebrations of this major event—the French Revolution. [end recording]

Dear viewers, perhaps it would be logical to expect that we should question Mr Dumas on French assistance to the Iraqi regime during the course of the imposed war, but the French foreign minister repeatedly insisted that we should look to the future, not to the past. However, we reserve the right to ask this question until we see a tangible change in the French Government's position in practice, with regard to the Islamic revolution.

Pakistan

Further Reportage on Reaction to Rushdie Book

Ban Imposed on Book

BK1602151489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] The Government of Pakistan has expressed unreserved condemnation of "The Satanic Verses," the nasty book by execrable Salman Rushdie. Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan has said that the government has imposed a ban on entry of the book into the country since it assumed power and no permission has been granted to bring even a single copy of this despicable book into Pakistan. The government will take stern action against any individual, magazine, or newspaper hurting the feelings of Muslims by publishing, translating, or distributing the satanic book.

The government is considering taking concrete steps on an international level against the book. In this context, the Pakistani ambassadors in London and Washington have been directed to convene meetings of ambassadors of the Islamic Conference Organization member countries so as to form a (?small) action committee and take steps against the book, its publisher, and distributors.

The interior minister stressed that the provincial governments must remain extremely vigilant to protect the lives and properties of the country's citizens. The interior minister said that processions are a basic right in a democratic society, but it is the duty of provincial governments to ensure that shopkeepers, traders, clinics and hospitals, and people engaged in various professions are not adversely affected.

It is the sacred duty of the government to protect the rights of the people and as maintenance of law and order is the responsibility of the governments, the provincial governments should fulfill their constitutional responsibilities and ensure that the lives and property and freedom and security of the people are not affected.

'Joint Action' Requested

BK1602164189 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] The ambassadors of all Islamic countries as well as those of the United States and Britain were called to the Foreign Office in Islamabad today to devise joint action against further publication of the blasphemous book, "The Satanic Verses."

A Foreign Office spokesman said the ambassadors of Islamic countries were requested to devise joint action for preventing foreign publishers from printing the book further, withdrawal of copies already printed and on sale, and to destroy them. All members of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] were also requested to ban the entry of the author, Salman Rushdie, into their countries and that the publisher should be asked to offer an apology because this book has insulted the entire Islamic community. If the publisher does not act on these recommendations, all ICO member countries will consider banning all books published by the publisher.

The British and U.S. ambassadors were requested to persuade their governments to get the book withdrawn from sale in their countries.

Demonstrations Expected 17 Feb

BK1702000689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1725 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 16 (AFP)—The government has issued warnings not to hold demonstrations here Friday against Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses," as Pakistan braces for opposition-called marches in other cities.

Demonstrations have been banned in the capital, where five people were killed Sunday when police fired on thousands of marchers converging on the U.S. Cultural Center to protest the U.S. publication of the book. Another person died later from wounds suffered during the incident.

Television news shows repeated warnings late Thursday not to hold public rallies in Islamabad or nearby Rawalpindi on Friday.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has condemned the book, which Moslems say is blasphemous, but has accused the opposition of stirring up trouble for political rather than religious reasons.

Senator Mawlana Kausar Niazi, leader of the Movement for Defense of the Prophet Muhammad's Prestige, the group which organized Sunday's rally, said his group would respect the law and would not hold rallies in the capital.

"As the administration has banned processions in Rawalpindi and Islamabad, we will not violate the law, therefore we will only hold meetings inside mosques," he said. "I hope thousands of people will gather in the mosques."

"But big rallies will be held in rest of the country," he added.

The government has said it would ask Britain and the United States to persuade publishers in those countries to stop publication. Ms Bhutto has also met with opposition party leaders to discuss the situation, press reports said.

Mr. Mawlana Niazi also said the call by Iran's spiritual leader to execute Mr. Rushdie and his publishers would be carried out in "a few months."

"We can tolerate criticism on our religion but we will never allow anyone to insult our prophet," he said, adding that his group would "continue until the author and publishers are eliminated or the publisher withdraws the copies and asks for pardon."

He also condemned the police for firing on the demonstrators in Islamabad, saying "it was a peaceful, nonpolitical and religious procession and the shooting was pre-planned."

"The government wanted to show its loyalty to America and to save some windows. They wasted precious lives," he said.

U.S. Embassy Under Guard

BK1702135289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1344 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Karachi, Feb 17 (AFP)—People demonstrating against British writer Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses" burned tires and stoned vehicles in sporadic outbursts of violence here Friday, residents said.

Troops in battle gear were patrolling the streets of the southern city while anti-riot police carrying automatic weapons guarded government buildings and road intersections, but there were no reported clashes with the demonstrators.

Religious and opposition leaders had called for demonstrations throughout Pakistan on Friday to protest against the book and the police suppression in Islamabad on Sunday of a demonstration against the planned U.S. publication of "The Satanic Verses."

People gathered Friday inside mosques where priests delivered speeches condemning the book, considered "blasphemous" by some Moslems.

Residents in Peshawar, Lahore and Islamabad, where demonstrations have been banned, said there were bigger than usual crowds attending Friday prayers.

Officials said police reinforcements had been ordered here overnight to maintain law and order on Friday.

Anti-riot police armed with shields and automatic weapons were seen guarding the U.S. Embassy and the U.S. Cultural Center in Islamabad on Friday.

Six people died and about 100 were injured Sunday when police fired on demonstrators protesting against the book outside the U.S. Cultural Center. [passage omitted]

Peaceful Demonstrations Noted

BK1702154789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] 'Ulema and preachers at Friday [17 February] prayer congregations throughout the country today condemned Salman Rushdie for writing the despicable book, "The Satanic Verses." Protest meetings were held at big cities throughout the country after the Friday congregations to condemn the publication of the despicable book, urging stern steps against the author and the publisher of the book. Demonstrations were held in some cities after the meetings which later dispersed peacefully.

Troops Disperse Demonstrators

BK1702153189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1516 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, Feb 17 (AFP)—People demonstrating against the novel "The Satanic Verses" and the government burned tires and stoned vehicles in sporadic violence here Friday [17 February], but troops were able to keep the situation under control, residents said.

The demonstrators soon dispersed as troops in battle gear and anti-riot police carrying automatic weapons were stationed in strategic points of the city. At least one person was injured in another protest in Pakistan, but no arrests have been reported.

In Peshawar on the Afghan border several thousand protestors staged a rally against the novel by British author Salman Rushdie, which Muslims condemn as blasphemous. Later some 5,000 people marched to the governor's house to hand a petition demanding a stop to publication of the book, eye-witnesses said.

The protestors were seen stoning cinemas, burning a U.S. flag and a portrait of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. They also condemned the police repression of a demonstration in Islamabad on Sunday which left six people dead and some 100 injured. They demanded that the government give compensation to the families of those killed.

Thousands had gathered inside Peshawar's main mosque, Mahabat Khan, to hear a priest offer a half-million-rupee (30,000 U.S. dollar) reward for "the young and brave Pakistani who kills the infidel Rushdie."

Other demonstrations were held in remote tribal areas elsewhere in the North West Frontier Province, where top religious leaders have issued an Islamic decree (fatwah) stating that Mr. Rushdie's killing would be an Islamic duty.

In Lahore, considered Pakistan's intellectual capital and the bastion of the opposition coalition Islami Jamhoori Ittehad (IJI), thousands of demonstrators marched to protest against the book and the police firing, residents said.

Qazi Hussain Ahmad, chief of the Muslim fundamentalist Jamiyat-i Islami, adressed a rally after Friday prayers in Lahore calling for Mr. Rushdie's death and demanded a ban on all publications of his publishers Viking-Penguin.

In Rawalpindi, near Islamabad, demonstrators stoned an office of Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP), injuring a PPP member who came out of the office to tell them to stop. Mawlana Kausar Niazi, leader of the movement which called the first protest Sunday, spoke to hundreds of people in two different mosques. "If this fellow comes before me I will kill him," he said about Mr. Rushdie in one mosque. "It is a Zionist conspiracy against Islam and the Zionist lobby is very powerful in America."

Sheikh Rashid, an opposition member of the National Assembly held the government responsible for Sunday's incident and called for the resignation of Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan.

After the prayer meetings, a group of youths were seen carrying portraits of late Pakistani President Mohammed Ziaul Haq and signs against Mr. Rushdie and the Bhutto government in Rawalpindi.

Anti-riot police armed with shields and automatic weapons were seen guarding the U.S. Embassy and the U.S. Cultural Center in Islamabad, where police opened fire on thousands of protestors on Sunday.

Reportage on Visit by Turkish President Evren

Significance of Visit Noted

TA1502172689 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1540 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Ankara (A.A)—Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan praised Turkey as "one of the technically advanced countries of the Islamic world," in an exclusive interview with A.A.

Noting that relations between the two countries were "excellent and most cordial," Ishaq Khan said, "the establishment of various joint commissions and conclusion of memoranda in the recent past would ensure to raise the level of our economic and commercial relations commensurate with our fraternal relations."

Convinced that President Kenan Evren's forthcoming visit to Pakistan "would provide both sides an excellent opportunity to review the existing fraternal relations including bilateral as well as international matters of common interest," the Pakistani president said: "Most important, it would help to build up personal rapport with the members of the newly elected democratic Government of Pakistan."

In answer to a question about Turkey's situation in the context of world politics, Ghulam Ishaq Khan said: "Turkey has always been a very important country on the world stage. Her strategic location, being gate-way to Europe and vice versa, has bestowed upon Turkey a significant role both regionally as well as globally."

"The regional countries, including Pakistan, could benefit from the Turkish stride in economic and technical field," he added.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan concluded his words saying: "We in Pakistan greatly cherish the love and affection that exist between our two peoples and I am sure this will grow from strength to strength in the years to come."

Arrives on 4-Day State Visit

BK1602152589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Turkish President Mr Kenan Evren was given a very warm welcome when he arrived in Islamabad this evening on a 4-day state visit to Pakistan. He is accompanied by a 68-member delegation including his daughter Mrs (Ghule as-Salam), Foreign Minister Mr Mesut Yalimaz, and senior officials and media representatives. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto welcomed him at the airport.

In an airport statement, the Turkish president said his visit will further strengthen eternal friendship and cooperation between the two countries. He said he is paying this visit on the invitation of the Pakistani president and noted the deep gratitude and honor he and his delegation feel, considering Pakistan as a second home. He said that during his stay in Pakistan he will exchange views with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto on bilateral relations and international and regional issues of mutual interest.

He was given a 21-gun salute at the airport. A contingent comprised of units from the three wings of the Armed Forces presented an honor guard and the national anthems of two countries were played.

Minister on Plans for Returning Afghan Refugees

BK1602130189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1249 GMT 16 Feb 89

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 16 (AFP)—Pakistan unveiled a plan Thursday to rid itself of its greatest burden during the nine-year Soviet intervention in Afghanistan: the 3.5 million Afghan refugees here.

Speaking to a press conference a day after the last Soviet soldier left Afghan territory, Minister for Tribal Affairs and Frontier Regions Mohammed Hanif Khan said that the government had set up a high-level committee to coordinate the repatriation of the refugees.

He said the program, which will cost 175 million dollars in U.N. funds, would be put in place right away, but that the refugees would probably refuse to return home until the present Moscow-backed government in Kabul fell. There would be no forced repatriations, he said.

Pakistan would watch the situation and when Islamabad and the international community were convinced that peace has been restored the repatriation process would start, he said. "We will convince them to go," he said without elaborating. Once the process starts it will be completed in 6 to 18 months, he added.

The minister said he believed that as long as the communist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) was in power the crisis would continue and there would be no security. "If, God forbid, there is a civil war, they will not go," he said.

Mr. Khan refused to speculate as to when the Kabul government would fall, saying "It is anybody's guess." He also denied the refugees were unwilling to go home. "They can't just live under sky and stars," he said adding that despite Pakistan's best efforts they did not have basic needs.

The refugees have cost Pakistan about one billion rupees a year, according to officials. Some Pakistanis have also complained that the refugees have taken up too many jobs by accepting lower wages.

The committee is to be headed by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's foreign affairs adviser, Iqbal Akhund, and will coordinate the repatriation work with the United Nations.

The project will pay for the refugees' transportation costs and for enough food for three months, Mr. Khan said.

Each family would be provided with wheat, sugar, tea, dry milk, edible oil, kerosene, medicine, tents and agricultural implements, he added.

"The refugees' return will be voluntary and the Government of Pakistan will not simply push them out as we are conscious of the refugees' tremendous sacrifices," Mr. Khan said.

The minister said there were 3.2 million refugees registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), while another 300,000 were living unregistered oustide camps.

The United Nations' Operation Salam (Peace) on Afghanistan headed by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan will meet costs, he said. Some 170,000 trucks will be used for transportation, he added.

Mr. Khan said he believed the first condition of the refugees' return had been met with the Soviet withdrawal, and their repatriation could start now as the resistance alliance had also proposed a mujahidin interim government.

However, he stressed that "the principal requirement is peace in Afghanistan and availability of food supplies."

He said 60 per cent of Afghan agricultural land had been damaged in bombings and shellings. At least 5,000 houses had been totally destroyed and another 20,000 badly damaged as a result of nine years of war.

"Since there is fear of conflict, hostility, persecution, bombing and shellings, we do not expect the spontaneous return of the refugees."

Millions of land mines still not removed also remain a major hazard preventing return, he said.

A program to train refugees in identifying and defusing mines has been in place for the past month. Those trained become instructors who are then sent to more than 300 refugee camps to train others.

Spokesman on Soviet Pullout From Afghanistan
BK1602160589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman, commenting on the Soviet troops pullout from Afghanistan, said in Islamabad today that several more steps are needed for the establishment of peace and a representative government in Afghanistan.

On the Kabul regime's complaint against Pakistan's alleged interference in Afghanistan, the spokesman said that the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan have received no proof of the alleged violation of the Geneva accord by Pakistan. On the Wakhan area, the spokesman said that the Soviet Union will have to vacate the region as it is a part of Afghanistan.

On the future role of the USSR in Afghanistan, the spokesman said that both the Soviet Union and the United States are guarantors to the Geneva accord and now the work of establishment of a broad-based government and reconstruction has to be carried out in that country.

In reply to another question, the spokesman said that all Soviet advisers will have to leave along with the Soviet troops.

The United States has termed the Soviet troop withdrawal as a great victory of the Afghan people. A State Department spokesman said our objective was to support the Afghan people's right to self-determination and it will continue in future as well.

Meanwhile, Yuliy Vorontsov, the Soviet deputy foreign minister and senior Soviet representative on Afghanistan negotiations, arrived in New Delhi today on an unscheduled visit.

Sri Lanka

Report on Presidential Message to Nation
BK1602140789 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1332 GMT 16 Feb 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 16 (LANKAPUVATH)—Once again, the people of Sri Lanka have exercised their most precious right - the right to vote. They have done this in the face of great adversity. As they did in the provincial and presidential elections, the voters have given the United National Party (UNP) a decisive mandate.

On behalf of the party and myself, I express deep gratitude for the confidence and trust given us. All those government officials, security forces and police, who worked so hard, deserve our thanks. In extending special appreciation to our voters, let us bow our heads in honour of all those who bravely sacrificed their lives in the line of duty and in the cause of democracy.

I also give special thanks to all political parties who appealed to the voters to go to the polls. This is the spirit that will sustain our democracy, said President R. Premadasa in his address to the nation at the conclusion of the general election held yesterday.

The season of elections is now over. The time for national reconciliation has begun. The agenda is clear. We must restore law and order. When the safety of any person is threatened, the safety of all the people is at stake. It is the duty of law enforcement officials to perform their functions effectively and fearlessly to protect our people.

We must speed ahead with our development programmes. When any Sri Lankan lives in poverty, all of our society lives in shame. We must renew and revise the unity of our people. A nation divided is a nation weakened. These are fundamental commitments I have made. They will be fulfilled.

All this cannot be completed instantly. However, it will commence immediately. Many of our efforts, including the Janasaviya anti-poverty programme, are already beginning. We cannot afford any more delay, any more obstruction, any more violence.

In a few days, I will be deciding on the allocation of ministerial subjects and selecting ministers on the basis of the needs of the people. I will not cater to personal preferences. Ministries will be reviewed, monitored and regularly changed to assure the best results. The cabinet will fulfill my promise to give the country an efficient administration, free of waste and corruption.

My administration will carry out the policies endorsed at the polls. There will be no excuses. Any attempt to sabotage or retard the new vision and the new deal are acts of treachery against the people. The people's agenda must go forward.

Our victory is not merely an election triumph. It is the victory of the people. It is a victory of principles. It is a victory of purpose. It is the first step in a long march to peace, discipline and prosperity.

We are not proud and boastful in victory. Let our opponents not be ashamed or resentful in defeat. The divisions of elections are over. Let us forget them. Let us

go forth together. We welcome and we need constructive criticism. However, our democratic attitude must not be mistaken for weakness or lack of determination. Join in progress. Do not impede it.

Those outside the democratic mainstream should now finally realise that the people totally reject the path of violence. I need not say again that our people will not tolerate any more destructive inhuman actions. Let all of us join together to protect and strengthen each of us. Let everyone—Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims and Burghers—dedicate themselves to this end.

Victory must be accepted with humility. Let the victors not speak or act in ways that will hurt those who failed to win. Let the calm that prevailed after the presidential election prevail after this election as well.

May the noble Triple Gem bless all of us.

UNP Wins 110 Seats, Opposition SLFP 57

BK1602133589 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1315 GMT 16 Feb 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 16 (LANKAPUVATH)—The ruling United National Party [UNP] collected 110 seats to its chief opponent's 57 seats in parliamentary election concluded yesterday.

The poll held for the first time under the proportion representation system was successfully worked off despite threats and "boycott" calls from extremist factions both in the north and east.

The voter turn out was as high as 75 per cent in many polling divisions and revealed clearly that Sri Lankans were tried of violence and were anxious to see peace and normalcy return to the country.

Nearly six million Sri Lankans once again asserted their precious right to vote.

The UNP bagged 110 seats with the SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party] its close rival getting 57 seats. Twelve seats went to independents in north-eastern electorates. The four party combine led by the Tamil United Liberation Front won 9 seats, the Sri Lanka Mulsim Congress 4, Mahajana Eksath Peramuna 2, and the United Socialist Alliance 2.

The UNP tally was 2,837,961 votes polled to the SLFP's 1,780,599.

TULF's Amirthalingam Suffers 'Shock Defeat'

BK1602114189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1132 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Colombo, Feb 16 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's most prominent Tamil politician, Appapillai Amirthalingam, suffered a shock defeat in the country's first general election in 11 years.

Mr. Amirthalingam, 61, who heads the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), was defeated by rival Tamil candidates—three of them former militants—in the eastern electoral district of Batticaloa in Wednesday's polls, officials said Thursday.

Mr. Amirthalingam refused to categorically accept defeat, saying three of the four Tamils who had won in Batticaloa had fought the election on the TULF election symbol.

"People have voted for the party. That is what we are concerned with," the TULF leader told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here, adding: "We are not concerned with individuals."

Mr. Amirthalingam, who is often described as the father of Tamil separatism, moved over to India after 1983 anti-Tamil riots here and played a key role in internationalising the Tamil-Sinhala ethnic conflict.

But his moderation was criticised by Tamil separatist guerrillas, whose growing influence in the island's north and east slowly marginalised the TULF, which in the last general elections in 1977 had won 18 seats to emerge as the single largest opposition group in Parliament.

One of the victorious candidates in Batticaloa, Sam Thambimuttu, said Mr. Amirthalingam lost because of his long self-imposed exile in southern India. The people, he said, rejected him as he was "not available when he was wanted."

Mr. Amirthalingam, a former lawyer, was first elected to Parliament in 1956, and re-elected several more times. In 1977 he won with a majority of nearly 26,000 votes.

At the height of the bloody Tamil separatist campaign in 1985-86, he was sentenced to death by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the most powerful of six major Tamil guerrilla groups.